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THE
✓
CHESHIRE SHEAF,

BEING

LOCAL GLEANINGS, HISTORICAL & ANTIQUARIAN,
FROM MANY SCATTERED FIELDS.



"O, LET ME TEACH YOU HOW TO KNIT AGAIN
THIS SCATTER'D CORN INTO ONE MUTUAL SHEAF!"



REPRINTED, AFTER REVISION AND CORRECTION, FROM THE CHESTER "COURANT."

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THE CHESHIRE SHEAF,

BEING

LOCAL GLEANINGS, HISTORICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN,
FROM MANY SCATTERED FIELDS.

CHESTER "COURANT." MAY 1st, 1878.

Advertisement.

"Antiqui colant antiquum dienum."

"O, let me teach you how to knit again,
This scatter'd corn into one mutual sheaf!"

Titus Andronicus, Act 5, Sc. 3, l. 70.

It is intended henceforth to reserve one or two columns of the *Chester Courant*, as a medium of communication between antiquaries and others interested in the by-gones of Cheshire and the adjoining counties of North Wales.

Its object will be to supplement, but in no way to supplant, the labours of the "Chester Archaeological Society," which has long been engaged on kindred and, we may at once acknowledge, more permanently useful work. But we venture to hope that local antiquaries of the future, and young students of the present, may find in these columns materials to their hand, out of which to construct many a valuable Paper for the Local Society,—materials that, but for the existence of the "CHESHIRE SHEAF," might have been utterly lost to them and to the world.

Already a goodly number of contributors have given in their adhesion to the project, and have pledged themselves to assist. By these and similar means it is hoped that, from week to week, a continuous variety of short articles on local subjects, more or less of historic interest, will be kept up. These will embrace notes, queries, and replies; stray scraps and quotations, legends, traditions, folk lore, village customs, local dialect, proverbs, quaint and early literature, personal recollections, old letters and diaries, anecdotes, biographies, archaeology, heraldry, genealogy, parish books and registers, corporate records, architecture, and a host of other questions in their specially local aspects.

The column will be edited by a Cheshire Antiquary, who will exercise a careful superintendence and control over the articles, &c., selected for insertion; and whose study it will be to make its contents alike available and welcome to his readers in every nook and corner of Cheshire and the adjacent western counties.

Contributions are therefore earnestly solicited, and, if found suitable, will have early insertion; it being understood as a principle that original matter of value, and duly attested, will always have a preference over that which may have already appeared in print,—except indeed in cases where the latter receives additional illustration at the hands of correspondents.

All letters connected with this department must be accompanied with the name and address of the writers, and be addressed to—

The Editor of the "CHESHIRE SHEAF,"

Courant Office,

Chester.

Notes.

[1]

MAY DAY.

MAY DAY! Not an inauspicious one, let us hope, for the binding of our first historic "SHEAF." May Day! associated over most others with "traditions bright of hoar antiquity"—the great annual festival of our merry making ancestors,—fraught with memories too, to most of us, of customs joyous and popular enough in our early youth, but now, by this utilitarian matter of fact age, utterly discarded, and set at naught. In the days of which we write nearly every Cheshire village of any extent, hoisted its garland-crowned, ribbon-bedecked maypole; old Chester itself paying special court

in that regard to "bright smiling May-day," for two may-poles at least were annually raised and vigorously danced round there, in those now historic times. The Boughton sweeps, too, on May Day, were wont to deck themselves in their holiday garb, bedizened with ribbons like morris-dancers, and so paraded the streets, to the no small delight of the very young as well as the very old of the city. Then there were "His Majesty's Mails," and the glorious old stage coaches, crowned with lilac and laurels and other green boughs till their passengers were almost hidden from view within improvised arbours of verdant May! The mail guards, too, in their bright scarlet coats faced with royal blue, and their gold-banded hats, gave brilliant colour and animation to the scene—the very horses themselves appearing to rejoice, decked with flowers and favours as they were, that May Day had indeed come. True, there is a sort of revival of the custom in our own day; but railway lorries and brewers' carts, however speciously decked with ribbons and green leaves, are but a poor apology and substitute for the dashing mail coach and coachman, and the inspiriting horn of the gaily-clad guard. No doubt we have much to be thankful for in these more advanced times, when education is universal, and when our labourers' sons are all wanting to be clerks, while their sisters are taught how to tait and embroider, though not to work; but really there *was* something to be said in favour of those days that are past! EDITOR.

[2] CHESHIRE MAY-DAY SONG.

No doubt in olden times, when May Day was kept in all its glory in almost every Cheshire village, there must have been in use many a popular May Day Song now utterly forgotten. Here is one which the industry of Mr. Halliwell Phillips has rescued from oblivion in his "Palatine Anthology." It was sent to him by the late Dr. Ormerod (our great Cheshire historian), to whom it was given just fifty years ago, by a lady then residing at High Leigh, in this county. The Mayers are out long before dawn, and visiting the various mansions and other great houses in their parish, selecting appropriate verses for each from the following refrain:—

All on this pleasant morning together come are we,
For the summer springs so fresh, green, and gay,
To tell you of a blossom that hangs on every tree,
Drawing near to this morning of May.
Oh, this is pleasant singing,
Sweet May flower is springing,
And summer comes so fresh, green, and gay!
Rise up the master of this house, in all his chain of gold,
For the summer springs so fresh, green, and gay,
And turn unto your loving wife, so comely to behold,
Drawing near to this morning of May.
Oh, this is pleasant singing,
Sweet May flower is springing,
And summer comes, so fresh, green, and gay!
Rise up the mistress of this house, with gold upon your breast,
For the summer springs so fresh, green, and gay,
And if your body's sleeping we hope your soul has rest,
Drawing near to this morning of May.
Oh, this is pleasant, &c.

Or:—

Oh, rise up, Mr. A. B., all joys to you betide,
For the summer springs so fresh, green, and gay,
Your steed stands ready saddled, a hunting for to ride,
Drawing near to this morning of May, &c.

Or:—

Your saddle is of silver, your bridle is of gold, &c.,
Your bride shall ride beside you, so lovely to behold, &c.

Or:—

Oh, rise up Mr. C. D., and take your pen in hand, &c.,
For you're a learned scholar, as we do understand, &c.

Or:—

Oh, rise up, Mistress E. F., all in your rich attire, &c.,
You are to have some noble lord, or else some wealthy squire, &c.

Or:—

Oh, rise up all the little ones, the flower of your kin, &c.,
And blessed be the chamber their bodies lie within, &c.

Or:—

Oh, rise up the good housekeeper, all in her gown of silk,
And may she have a husband good, and twenty cows to milk, &c.

Or:—

But where are all those fair maids that used here to dance, &c.,

Oh, they are gone abroad from hence, to spend their lives in France, &c.

And:—

God bless your house and harbour, your riches and your store,
For the summer springs so fresh, green, and gay,

We hope the Lord will prosper you both now and evermore,

Drawing near to this morning of May!

Oh, this is pleasant singing,
Sweet May-flower is springing,
And summer comes so fresh, green, and gay.

T. HUGHES.

[3] GEOFFREY CRAYON AT CHESTER.

In his world-renowned *Sketch Book*, Washington Irving, writing half a century ago, thus pleasantly discourses on his May-day experiences at Chester:—"I shall never forget the delight I felt on first seeing a May-pole. It was on the banks of the Dee, close by the picturesque old bridge that stretches across the river from the quaint little city of Chester. I had already been carried back into former days by the antiquities of that venerable place, the examination of which is equal to turning over the pages of a black-letter volume, or gazing on the pictures in Froissart. The May-pole on the margin of that poetic stream completed the illusion. My fancy adorned it with wreaths of flowers, and peopled the green bank with all the dancing revelry of May-day. The mere sight of this May-pole gave a glow to my feelings, and spread a charm over the country for the rest of the day; and as I traversed a part of the fair plains of Cheshire, and the beautiful borders of Wales, and looked from among swelling hills down a long green valley, through which 'the Deva wound its wizard stream,' my imagination turned all into a perfect Arcadia!"—It is not very certain to which of the Chester May-poles Washington Irving here so poetically alludes. I incline, however, to the opinion that it was the one erected at the bottom of Sty lane, Handbridge, close to

the banks of the Dee and to the old Dee Bridge. But we must not lose sight of the fact that the original May-pole was that permanently standing at the fork of the Eccleston and Hawarden Roads—a spot which the famous American author would necessarily have to pass upon the stage-coach that came May-day *en route* to the wild scenery of Wales. This last named pole was finally removed about 28 years ago. G. T.

[4] CROMWELL'S SON AT CHESTER.

I do not find in our local histories the fact recorded that HENRY CROMWELL, second son of the Protector Oliver, came to Chester, on his way to Ireland, 2nd June, 1655, where he remained till the 23rd. Upon the last-named day he despatched a letter to Thurloe, the Secretary of State, acquainting him that he was treated both by the country in his journey, and whilst in the old city, with a great deal of respect. From Chester he went to Holyhead, where he arrived without any accident on the 5th of July. Chester was at this period under the dominant rule of the Roundhead party, whose soldiers literally swarmed in her old streets: the loyal citizens, therefore, of whom there were thousands then resident there, were in no position to afford Old Noll's son a taste of their quality. Five years afterwards, and indeed almost uniformly before and since, there would have been altogether another tale to tell. Chester and loyalty to the throne have for long, long centuries been synonymous terms. T. T.

[5] ROWTON, NEAR CHESTER.

There was formerly a chapel at Rowton, situate opposite the entrance to Rowton Hall. It was converted into a farm-house, the old Gothic windows remaining, and the Ten Commandments on the kitchen walls. The flooring of the kitchen consisted of grave-stones, the old graveyard partially remaining outside the house.

This house was taken down about the year 1814, and the present brick house erected in its place. The owner of the house was Mr. Jeremiah Townsend, who with his two sisters, Mary and Sarah, then resided in Queen street, Chester.

As the crucifix sculptured on stone, now in the Chester Water Tower Museum, was found in the sand-hole situate midway between Rowton and Christleton, it was most probably part of Rowton Chapel, and conveyed there among the *debris* after its demolition.

The old farm-house was the residence of Mr. Benjamin Dean, whose father, Hugh Dean, married an adopted daughter of a lady of the neighbourhood. When Mr. Benjamin died, and the old house was taken down, there was sold to the late Mr. Broster, of Brook Lodge, a large full-length portrait of an alderman in a scarlet robe. This painting was signed "Willm.", which was supposed to be William abbreviated. There was a companion picture of a lady, which owing to the decay of the frame, it is feared, was permitted to

moulder away. I presume these portraits were of the lady and her husband who had, as stated, adopted Mrs. Hugh Dean. It may, perhaps, be yet possible to ascertain what has become of the portrait of which Mr. Broster became possessed.

In the middle of Rowton village was a large willow tree, under which was formerly the "stocks." When these rotted away, there was so little use for the village handcuffs that they were locked to a branch of the tree, which in course of time enclosed them in the bark, so that if the tree exists the handcuffs are still there.

Chester.

B. OWEN.

[6] THINGS I REMEMBER.—No. 1.

I remember in my early youth (I'm well on for sixty now!) being greatly impressed by the appearance and costume of old Speakman the Corporation Beadle, as he strutted about the market-place of Chester, stave in hand, and with his head encooned in a gold-banded, but, on special occasions, in a cock-and-pinched, hat of the true old type. I remember with some awe his gold-laced coat and cloak, his plush breeches and grey woollen stockings,—afterwards discarded, by the way, for orthodox trows,—the observed of all juvenile observers; and how I thought in my soul that it would be difficult to imagine a more distinguished position than that he occupied. In my mind's eye I can see him now, as I often did then, standing by the old wooden "stocks" at the corner of the fowl-market, while one or more thirty souls of either sex were sitting out their weary hour, doing penance for their transgressions. I remember, too, that these souls were mostly the same old offenders whom I saw from time to time occupying that unenviable position; and I have often reflected since that the shame-destroying cure was if anything even worse than the disease. We youngsters used to crowd round the stocks, sometimes pitying, but more frequently jeering, the misdemaneants, and not unfrequently getting a sharp tap from the stave of the lace adorned beadle. The times have changed since then; for "five shillings and costs, or a week in default," now do duty in place of the stocks; while as for old Speakman and his livery, and his painted staff of office, the old place thereof knoweth them no more!

Chester.

G. T.

Original Documents.

[7]

The following letter from Archbishop Neil (or Neale) of York, to Bishop Bridgeman, of Chester, written in 1637, may be thought worthy of insertion in your Antiquarian column, as touching on an incident in local history, and curiously exhibiting the relation which then existed between the ecclesiastical and civil authorities of the city. It has never been printed, and is only to be found in a MS volume, known as "Bishop

Bridgeman's Ledger," containing the Statistics of the several Parishes of the Diocese; compiled by him and preserved in the Bishop's Registry at Chester:—

"Salutem in Christo.

"My very good Lo: &c.,

"It hath pleased his Maty of late to take notice, That the Majors of sundry Cities of this kingdome do not come orderly to the publicke praiers and sermons to the Cathedrall Churches, and that in some places where they do come to ye Cathedralls w'oh have liberties and privileges within their precincts, they carry up their sword and Maice, as if the Jurisdiccon of those places belonged to them; whereupon his Matie hath directed his L'es to those Majors requiring of them (as yow may see the effect of his Maties L're as directed to the Lo: Major of Yorke, whereof I have sent yow a coppie); Now, I having heard that the Major of Chester in a sort abandoneth your Cathedrall Church, (though yow have so ordered it that all the service and sermons of the City are ended before yours begin), I thought good to send yow this copie, and to pray yow both in my name and your owne to shew it to Mr. Major of Chester and his Brethrene, and to move as far forth as the same doth concerne them to p'forme what his Matie in his sayd L're hath commanded other Cities to do. If this course shall take effect the busines wilbe well done, otherwise I shall entreat my Lo: of Canterbury to move his Maty for his L'es to them. I send yow here also the copie of an Order of the Lords of the Starochamber and the Judges' resolution touching the legality of our p'ceedings in our Eool'icall Courts, w'oh my Lo: of Canterbury hath caused to be registred in all the Temporall and Eool'icall Courts, and thinketh it fit that the like be done w'th vs, w'oh I pray yow to cause to be done. And so wth my hearty comendacions I comit you to gods blessed p'tecoon, and rest,

"Yor L'ops very loving freind and brother,

"R: EBOR.

"Bishophthorp, 27 August, 1637.

"To ye R. B. father in god, my very good Lo: and brother, the Lo: B'p of Chester, at his house at Lever in Lancashire."

Then follow copies of the King's letter, and the Star Chamber's and the Judges' Orders to the like effect.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

Queries.

[8] THE LEADWORKS, CHESTER.

"Can any of your readers inform me who were the occupants of the Leadworks in 1791, when it appears from an old map of the city that the shot tower and works were in existence?"

INQUIRER.

"Nant-y-Glyn."

[9] NANTWICH CHURCH.

Hearing incidently that you are about to open a column for Notes and Queries, &c., connected with the antiquities of the county, I should like to submit the following:—

The South Porch of this church, which we are about to Restore, is of the Perpendicular Period, and has a room over it with fireplace, which we suppose to be a *Parvise*, or Priest's chamber. There is also a lean-to building of the same date, one storey high, with fireplace, two windows in the outer walls, and a door from the Porch, but without any opening into the Church.

Query.—*Are there other instances of such an addition to the Porch, and what was its use?*

The Vestry is by the east end of the Church. One Historian speaks of the Porch as "The Treasury of our Lady," but gives no authority. We hear of the "Hospital or Free Chapel of St. Nicholas" in several deeds. Might these rooms have been used as a Hospitium or refuge for pilgrims and travellers?

We also hear of a *Domus Leprosorum*, called St. Lawrence's Hospital; could it have anything to do with this?

FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

Rectory, Nantwich.

[10] ROMAN COIN.

An interesting second brass coin of the emperor Constans (A.D. 337-50) was picked up on Sunday, April 14th last, out of some debris carted to Whipoord-lane, in this city, from the site of some old buildings between White Friars and Pierpoint-lane, recently pulled down. The emperor's portrait occupies the field of the obverse, with the inscription round it, D.N. CONSTANS. P.F. AVG., while on the reverse, the emperor is seen standing at the prow of a vessel,—in his right hand, a globe surmounted by a bird holding a garland, and in his left a labarum with the sacred monogram of Christ; behind is a winged figure kneeling, propelling the boat with an oar. The whole is surrounded with the legend, FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO, which Akerman in his *Roman Coins* renders "Felix temporum reparatio." A correspondent will have something more to say of this in a future No. of the "SHEAF."

T. H.

[11] DANIEL'S ASH, HAWARDEN.

Just below the village of Hawarden, and upon what must have at one time been the tide-washed shore of the river Dee, there stands an ancient-looking farmhouse, apparently from two to three centuries old, and known by the name of DANIEL'S ASH. Is anything known of the history of this house, and how it came to possess its euphonious name?

H. S. A.

[12] GOD'S CROFT.

The *soi-disant* Cheshire prophet Nixon, in one of his occult deliverances, asserts that, when all the tribulations he deals in come upon our land, there shall only be one safe spot for nervous souls to shelter in, viz., "in

God's croft, between the rivers Mersey and Dee." Is there any such field or place existing, within range of the two great local rivers referred to in the above quotation?

J. ROGERS.

[13] PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR.

Who was Pemberton? Hemingway quotes a MS. description of the Walls, which he thinks was written about 1706, which says—"From hence we go still westward, passing by a small platform, formerly called Morgan's Mount; and shortly after, a small tower formerly called Goblin's, or Dill's, since PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR, which, being ruinous, was of late half of it taken down; the other half, being a semi-circle, still remains, and, arched over, and benched round with stone, makes a very station from whence you have a fine prospect of the Crofte, and the west parts of the city."—See Hemingway's *Chester*, vol. 1, p. 355.

W. T. P.

MAY 8, 1878.

Original Documents.

[14] ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S LETTER TO THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CHESTER.

The following "coppie of a letter from the Ld. ArchB'p of Cant: (i.e. Laud) to the Deane and Chapter of Chester" is preserved in Bishop Bridgeman's Ledger: as it has never been printed, I think it worth while to send it for insertion in "THE SHEAF" It possesses a singular interest, as well on account of its author and his vigorous mode of dealing with refractory ecclesiastics, as for the precise description it gives of "The Abbey Cort" or Square, as it existed in 1637. This description agrees with the plan of the Court given by Lysons from Randle Holme's Papers in the British Museum, and shews how it differs from the present Abbey Square:—

"A coppie of a letter from the Ld. ArchB'p. of Cant:, by the Kinge's appointm't to the Deane and Chapter of Chester, forbidding them and their successors hereafter to lett any lease of any part of the Abbie Cort, and espeticiallie the Brewhouse and Malthouse therein, for yeares or lives, but to reserve them to the use of the Prebendes and other Necessarie Members of the Church; w'oh letter was sent by the said Ld. ArchB'p to John, Lord B'p of Chester, 29th Oct: 1638, and by him deliv'ed to Deane Mallorie and the Prebende, 26th November, 1638.

"After my hartie Comend: &c. I am informed, that in yor Quadrangle or Abbey Cort of Chester, wherein my Lord the B'p of Chesters house and yor owne houses stand, the B'ps house takes vp one side of the Quadrangle,

And that another side hath in it the Deanes house and some buildinges for singing men: That the third side hath in it one Prebende's house onelie, and the rest is turned to a Malthouse; And that the fourth side (where the Grammar Schoole stooode) is turned to a Comon Brewhouse, and was lett into lives by yor vnworthie Predecessors. This Malthouse and Brewhouse, but the Brewhouse espeticiallie, must needes by Noise and smoke and filth infinitlie annoy both my Lord the B'ps house and your owne, And I doe much wonder that any man of Ordinarie Discretion should for a little trifling gayne bring such a Mischiefe (for less it is not) vpon the place of their owne Dwellinge. But hiterto this concernes your predecessors: That w'oh fellows will appeare to be your owne fault; for not long since the Bruer dyed: And though the Kinges letters were then come Downe vnto yow to forbid letting into lives, yett yow Did renew it agen into three lives for a poore sume of 30li.! This was verie il done, and should his Matie be made acquainted wth it, yow would not be able to Answere it. Now I heare the Bruers wife is Dead, and yow have given me cause to feare, that yow will fill vp the lease againe w'oh another life. And then there wilbe no end of this Mischiefe. I have therefore taken a speticall occasion to move his Matie in this p'ticular, And his Matie hath required me to lay his Comandes vpon yow (w'oh now I doe by theise presentes), That neyther yow nor any of yor Successors doe presume to lett any part of that Cort to any other then some of the Prebendes, or other necessarie Members of the Church, And that now for the present yow Renew neyther Term of life, nor Terme of yeares eyther to the Brewer or Malster, but that yow suffer them to weare out that Terme which they have, and then Re-serve the Place and howsing for the use aforesaid. And yow are further by the same Command of his Matie to register these letters, that so your Successors may know what they have to doe in this p'ticular. And in all this I require your Obedience in his Maties Name, as you will Answere it at your perill.

So I leave yow &c."

This description of "The Abbey Cort" must have been carefully drawn out by Bishop Bridgeman in order to put the Archbishop in full possession of his complaint; and the Archbishop no doubt repeats it verbatim to shew the Dean and Chapter that he quite understood what he was writing about, even to the interesting episodes of the death of "The Bruer" and "The Bruer's Wife." We may assume that Bishop Bridgeman had remonstrated with the Dean and Chapter before he wrote to Archbishop Laud; and perhaps he had appealed also to Archbishop (Neile) of York, the statutable Referee in all cases of dispute between the Bishop and the Dean and Chapter, But finding the one intractable and the other indifferent, he went to Archbishop Laud, who properly had no right to interfere in the matter. But the fact of his appeal is an indication of the supreme authority which Laud then exer-

cised in all ecclesiastical matters, not only through his great influence with King Charles I. but as a leading member of the Court of Star Chamber. His word was weighty and powerful, and few were bold enough to resist it. Whether the Dean and Chapter did resist, or obey, we do not know, for all the records of Chapter Acts passed previous to the Commonwealth have been lost. It would be interesting to learn how the missive was received by them on that 25th of November, 1638, and to hear especially what was said of it by the Vice Dean, the ablest and most learned man amongst them, John Ley, or Lea, who was a very zealous Puritan, and afterwards one of the Assembly of Divines. The present condition of the Abbey Square sufficiently proves that the injunction, against leasing any part of it to persons unconnected with the Cathedral, was not obeyed by Deans and Chapters subsequent to the Restoration in 1660.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

[15] **RANDLE HOLME AND THE HERALDS' COLLEGE.**

The following characteristic letter, written 186 years ago to-morrow, and addressed to the Registrar of the College of Arms, is preserved in the British Museum,—Harl:MS. 6944, Plut: LXIX, E. I trust it may have sufficient interest to claim a corner for itself in the "CHESHIRE SHEAF."

R. W. J.

The Temple, April 30.

"Sir,—It is so long since I have either written or Heard from any in the Office of Arms, that all is forgotten by me, neither could I tell who to writ to by name, had not I lately seen a letter fro' yow to an other p'son, mentioning your Selfe Register of the Colledge, and Sr Jo: Dugdale to be Norroy. Upon w'ch I make bold to send yow these few lines to inform yow that I have by James Paine the carrier (who wilbe in London the 14 day) sent yow up a BOOK OF HERALDRY of my own Labour and printing, which I doe freely bestow on the Colledge to be put into the library, if the Kings of Armes think it worthy of that place. And whereas I have printed some small number, which I have in part (and shall of the rest) bestowed on our countrey nobility and gentry, and to goe noe further; because, as our Book Sellers say, it is not Licenced, though I have the approbation and recommendation of it fro' severall of our Gentry, both in verse and prose, w'ch I forbear to print because of the great charge of printing and paper. Yet if I might be so happy, and obtaine so much favour, as to get an Imprimatur upon it, fro' such as are concerned in the Office, I shalbe ready to answer for the fees required for the same, and bestow some books on such as desire them fro' me as a satisfaco'on for their goodness to me in that behalfe.

Sr, this is all at present, onely desire a line fro' yow of the receipt of the book, and an answer to my request, and it will very much oblige him who is your Lousing and Devoted friend and servant

Chester, 9 May. (92)

RANDLE HOLME.

It is sowed up in canvase, and directed to y'w, with this mark Q."

[The Book here referred to is that most rare and curious heraldic compilation "THE ACADEMIE OF ARMOURY," by the third Randle Holme, who was gentleman sewer to King Charles II., and for some time Deputy to Garter King of Arms. Having printed and published the work entirely on his own authority, and without any concert with his superiors, it is pretty clear that the heads of the College of Arms were not over well disposed to officially sanction its issue to the public, hence the above rather sycophant appeal from the author. We are not aware that the "imprimatur" here asked for was ever granted by the College.—EDITOR.]

Notes.

[16] **A CHESHIRE POTTER.**

Forty or fifty years ago a potter (I think named Holmes) endeavoured to establish himself in Chester, with a view to utilising the clay lying on the site of the present Public Cemetery, which was at the time regarded as well adapted for the purpose. I remember being taken by my father to see the man at work,—in a cottage near the Feathers Inn, Handbridge; and was much astonished to see him so rapidly turn out before my eyes a small jug, with handle and lip complete, from what was a moment before a mere puddle of wet clay! The venture failed to be remunerative, as others had done before, and Holmes not long after, I believe, abandoned the undertaking. But it is not unlikely that there may be yet remaining, in the cottages of the neighbourhood, cups and saucers, jugs and other vessels, the outcome of this hitherto unrecorded Chester Pottery works.

T. H.

[17] **THE WHITE LION MILESTONE.**

Fifteen years ago, while the ruin of the old Town Hall (then called the Exchange) at Chester yet remained standing after the great fire; and ere the market-place and its surroundings had vanished to make way for the new order of things now prevailing,—there might have been seen a well-battered milestone resting against the *façade* of the White Lion Hotel. Of milestones generally it may be said that "Cæsar and Pompey are very much alike, especially Pompey;" but in this particular instance there was more in our White Lion milestone than met the eye. For, just as the clock at Greenwich Observatory gives the legal time to the whole of England, so the milestone in question marked the spot whence the mileage of the main coach-roads converging upon Chester was uniformly computed. It has become of late the fashion to measure everything locally from the High Cross of the city; but seeing that, in the good old coaching days, a different rule prevailed, it seems altogether a pity that the old landmark referred to was not

retained in its position near the northern corner of the new Market Hall. The stone was lately, and is probably still, hiding away somewhere in one of the store-yards of the Corporation; and our new-born "CHESHIRE SHEAF" will have yielded its first golden ear, should the authorities in their wisdom see fit to replace the tablet on its original site.

EDITOR.

[18] THINGS I REMEMBER.—No. 2.

Once upon a time, say about 50 years ago, the writer, an ancient citizen of Chester, recollects the city astir, the bells and belles making merry, and the citizens taking holiday. Seeing the Old Town Hall the centre of attraction, the writer asked "What's to do?" "Oh! the Duke of Sussex is here, and they are going to make him a Free Citizen of Chester!" So to the Common Hall with all speed he went, and just reached the scene of interest in time to see the hall crowded to the very door, and the *dramatis personæ* all ready. Prominent in the crowd were the city grandees with the Mayor at their head, a "justice" reminding one of Shakespear's specimen, a "lean and slippered pantaloon, with clothes well soiled and much too wide for his 'shrunk shanks,'" with him the jolly-faced town clerk; and, looking every inch a prince, the Royal Duke, our welcome visitor. At the distance little of what was said by the mayor could be distinguished; but the Duke was well heard, and very gracefully bore his part in the day's festivity. The point which dwells most in the memory is the contrast between the city functionary, who reminded one forcibly of a figure in Holbein's "Dance of Death," and the prince, who had all the noble bearing of the family of the 3rd George.

N.B.—The portrait of this worthy Mayor (Alderman Fletcher) will, it is hoped, shortly appear in our new Town Hall.

Newton.

T. D. C.

[19] STRANGE FISH TAKEN IN THE DEE.

On the 8th May, 1782, "while some fishermen were casting their nets for salmon, about two miles beyond the Lower Ferry, near to this city, to their unspeakable astonishment they observed a FISH of uncommon size rolling about, a part of its body appearing above the surface. The tide, having then been some time ebbing, had left an insufficiency of water for its enormous bulk. On the approach of the boat it appeared extremely agitated, its strength being nearly exhausted by the want of its natural element, and the length of time it must have been beating about in this situation. One of the fisherman very resolutely jumped on its back, and, cutting a hole in the dorsal fin, fastened a rope through it, by which means they, on the return of the tide, floated it up, with the help of two boats, to the New Crane. There, with the utmost difficulty, they effected its landing, not less than ten horses being em-

ployed for that purpose. When brought to shore, its form and size struck every person with inexpressible amazement; many opinions were given by seafaring men and others respecting its species—several pronouncing it a basking shark, others a spermaceti whale, and others a grampus, to none of which (as described by our modern writers on Ichthyology) it bears any certain similitude. The length of it is 25 feet; the girth proportionably large, though very unequal; it has two dorsal and six pectoral fins—two of the latter of a very singular form, partaking of the nature of feet. The tail is perpendicular, of prodigious size and strength; there are five gills on each side. The mouth, when open to its extremity, is three feet wide; there are not any teeth, but a vast quantity of small, irregular, sharp prominences, which are evidently given it for the purpose of comminuting its food, the orifice of the throat being astonishingly narrow for a creature of such magnitude. The upper and under jaws are each furnished with ten strong protuberant bones, horizontally placed, which meet when the mouth closes, in such a manner as to appear capable of breaking almost any substance. The eye is situated very near the mouth, and scarcely larger than that of an ox: the nose is hard and prominent; the whole body is covered with a very thin [? thick] skin, and the weight of the Fish is between four and five tons. We have been thus particular, as it is probable that some ingenious Naturalist may favour the public with the certain information of its real species."—*Chester Courant*, May 14, 1782. G. T.

[20] STANLEY PLACE, CHESTER.

This west-end resort of local aristocracy was first laid out for building exactly a hundred years ago, and the following advertisement in reference thereto appears in the *Chester Courant*, for May, 1778:—"There is now to be let for building on, under the customary building leases, several hundred yards of land, in the Yacht Field, near the Watergate, within and adjoining the City Walls, being a most convenient, dry, and healthy situation, commanding a very pleasing prospect of the Flintshire hills and the River Dee, with a great part of the enclosed lands recovered from the sea. Its extent will admit of erecting elegant houses, that may be formed into a square that will open to the City Walls, and its situation may, with great propriety, be considered as in the country. Part of this ground will afford very good houses with every convenience to be built to face Watergate-street. A plan may be seen at Mr. Edward Woodfin's, Watergate-street."—The Yacht Field had belonged in pre-Reformation times to the Monastery of the Gray Friars, the church and house of which abutted upon Watergate-street. G. T.

Queries.

[21] HAZEL WAND FOUND IN TOMBS.

Some three or four years ago, when the grave of Ranulph Higden, the historian, was discovered in Chester Cathedral, it was stated that in that and another tomb in an adjoining aisle there had been found a long hazel stick placed, in each case, across the eere-clothed body. There must have been some signification, occult or otherwise, in this curious burial custom, and I should be pleased to learn any information you may pick up for me thereon. G. T.

[22] ROSEMARY AT FUNERALS.

Formerly it was a common occurrence,—and I noticed an instance at Chester only the other day,—for the mourners and followers at a funeral to carry openly in their hands sprigs of rosemary, which they threw into the grave at that solemn point of the service where the sexton thrice scatters earth upon the coffin and the body is committed to its parent dust. What connection has rosemary with death, and how far back can the custom just referred to be traced in this district?

QUERRIST.

[23] BASINGWEEK ABBEY.

The *Dublin University Magazine*, Nov., 1857, in an article on "The Castle of Dublin," has the following reference to a Flintshire Abbey:—

"Towards the middle of the 16th century various portions of the Castle of Dublin had fallen to decay, and although considerable sums had been expended on its repairs, it is described in 1545 as but 'evil defensible,' three of its chief towers having been left unroofed from want of lead, for which repeated applications had been unsuccessfully made by the Privy Council of Ireland to the English Government. This subject is referred to as follows, in an unpublished letter addressed by the Lord Deputy St. Leger to Sir William Paget, the Principal Secretary of State:—'There was a warrant for 20 or 30 fodder of lead, that lieth in the late abbey of BASTYNWEEKE in Wales, to be transported hither, as well for the covering of his Highness' Castle of Dublin, which is like to be in great peril for lack thereof, as I have divers times written, as also others of his Majesty's castles and houses which are in like peril if brief remedy be not had; for I assure you, if the same lead might be had in time, one groat would do that perchance ten pounds will not do hereafter.'" What further was done in this matter? T. T.

Replies.

[24] GEOFFREY CRAYON AT CHESTER.

MAY-POLES IN HANDBRIDGE.

[No. 3.—MAY 1.]

Prior to 1807 there was but one May-pole standing in this Chester suburb, and that was the property of the Grosvenor family, who have for centuries been large

owners of cottage property there. But after the city election for the year 1807, when Sir John Grey Egerton (then plain Mr. Egerton) was first returned to Parliament, party spirit in Chester, but especially in Handbridge, dominated over everything for at least a generation. The Grosvenor Samaritans would have nothing to do with the Egerton Jews; and even on May-day, when it was elsewhere the habit to bury ill-blood in the festive bowl, the rancour of faction could not be laid aside. The Egerton lads were openly snubbed by the Grosvenor lazes, who disdained to dance with anyone wearing the opposition favours. Of course the Egertons rebelled against all this, though, to tell the truth, one side was every bit as bad as the other. The end of it was that the Egertons determined to set up a May-pole of their own, round which their idol's partizans of both sexes might dance in peace; and the open land on the fore-shore of the Dee, at the bottom of Sty-lane, was the spot selected by the Independent party. This was the May-pole which Geoffrey Crayon saw and rejoiced over on his visit to Chester; and very pretty it must have looked, too, from the Walls, with its garlands and ribbons of bonny bright blue waving in the sunlight! Some of the Grosvenor fishermen, out of the mere spirit of opposition, a few years afterwards, started another May-pole also upon the river bank; but the "yellow" party were not strong enough to support two, and would not forsake their old love, so the third candidate had to retire. T. HUGHES.

MAY-DAY.

[No. 1.—MAY 1.]

I found the other day the stanza following in the collection of Randle Holmes, preserved in Harleian MS. 2127, No. 81. It seems to me so appropriate to the launching, on May-day, of the CHESHIRE SHEAF, that I venture to ask its insertion:—

"If Wednesday, Thursday, or if Friday,
Happen this year to be May-day,
Then begin some harmless thing,
And it will thee much credit bring!"

The Temple.

R. W. JONES.

[25] THE LEAD WORKS, CHESTER.

[No. 8.—MAY 1.]

"INQUIRER" has been misled by the date affixed to the old plan he has seen. I have two copies of the same plan, each of them dated 1791; but the one impression is at least ten years older than the other, having been engraved in the first instance for Poole's curious little "History of Cheshire," originally issued in that year. In the older edition, where the LEAD WORKS, &c., now stand is shewn a long narrow field running northward from the ancient Horn Lane, with two wide fields, one on each side of the former, and all three long since absorbed in the Lead Works' property. In the later issue, say about 1802, the same narrow field is shewn, but this time marked as the site of the

"Shot Tower," proving that the building had been erected during that interval. Further than this, however, I have the MS. authority of the late Denis Sweeney, a very reliable antiquary and collector of the last generation, for the statement that the Lead Works and Shot Tower were "first established in 1801, on the Chester and Nantwich Canal bank." G. T.

Chester.

"INQUIREE" may perhaps find what he needs by carefully searching the title deeds of the Leadworks' property, now, and ever since the manufactory was started, held by Messrs. Walker and Co. T. C. H.

[27] NANTWICH CHURCH.
[No. 9.—MAY 1.]

The room over the south porch is, no doubt, a *Parvise*: there is one in the like position at Chester Cathedral, as there was another, half a century ago, over the southern entrance to St. Peter's Church in the same city. Mr. BLACKBURN does not say so; but I take it for granted that, as usual in such chambers, there is in addition to the exterior windows, a small light or opening into the church; so that the priest lived, as it were, in a sort of architectural *hades* between religion and the world.

The lean-to chamber adjoining *may* have been a baptistery, or indeed a vestry, or a sacristan's room for the church utensils, the bier, &c.: but the *Parvise* is the more likely place to be used as "The Treasury of Our Lady," from its comparatively more safe position. If it were the Vestry, then I should suggest that the present vestry at the east end may have been the Leper Chapel of St. Lawrence, especially if it has the usual requisites of one, viz., piscina, altar-stone, ambry, &c. In that case, I should expect to find in the wall adjoining the chancel a diagonal opening, or "squint," through which the lepers could see the altar and officiating priest, as also receive the sacrament, without being visible to the other worshippers in the church. T. HUGHES.

MAY 15, 1878,

Original Documents.

[28] BISHOP BRIDGEMAN'S LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP LAUD.

The following letter has just been dug out of that rich mine of antiquarian and historic lore, the Domestic State Papers, preserved in the Record Office, London. A friend, who was in search of some other documents of the date of Charles I., accidentally discovered this letter, which he at once copied and sent to me. It is hardly necessary to say that it has never before seen the light. I send it to you because it forms a curious sequel to the two

preceding letters of Archbishops Neile and Laud, which were copied from Bishop Bridgeman's Ledger. The date of it is only five days later than that on which Bishop Bridgeman delivered Laud's letter to Dean Mallorie at the annual Chapter meeting on Nov. 25, 1638.

Original letter from Bishop Bridgeman, of Chester, to Archbishop Laud. From the Domestic State Papers, Charles I., vol. 404. December, 1638, No. 5. Folded and sealed with the Bishop's arms, and addressed:—

"To the most reverend father in God the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, his Grace, Primat and Metropolitan of all England, and one of the L'ds. of his Ma'ts. most hon'ble privie Councell, &c."

Endorsed on the back,—“Rec'd: Decemb. 18to., 1638, L. B. of Chester concerning the Major's seate in the Cathedral there.”

“Mine humble Duty remembered.

May it please yor Grace. I have delivered yor Letter to our Deane and Chapter, forbidding them hereafter to Lease any Part of our Abbey Court (in w'ch the Houses of the Bishop and the Deane and other Churchmen do stand) unto a Common Brewer and Malster, as this Deane and Prebendaries had formerly done. I owe you for this as much as mine health (and perhaps my Life) comes to, for (truly) ever since my being Bishop of this Sea (which is now almost 20 years) I have scarce had a month's health together, while I lived at Chester, by means of the smoake and the annoyance which came thereby.—And now, though I am most unwilling to trouble yor weightie employments at this time, yet I hope it will not offend you, if once more (for I shall not be often in this kind) I crave your Grace's advice in a Business which more nearly concerns the Publique.

The Maior of Chester and his Brethren have discontinued from our Cathedrall service for about 12 yeares together; till this last yeare, when an ingenious Merchant (who had sometimes been a Chorister and Grammar Scholar of our Church) brake that schisme, and came diligently to our Quire at beginning of Service every Sunday, and there continued reverently till Service and Sermon were fully ended. But hee sate in the Seate on the South side of the Quire Dore over against the Deane's Seat, so oft as hee came to the Quire, as all his Predicessors (for ought I can learne) have alwayes done without Interruption, and ever since the Erection of our Cathedrall: The Prebendaries sitting, halfe of them next the Deane, and the other half next the Major, on the other side; and after them the Aldermen and other Gentlemen. But on a suddaine our Deane (although hee have no Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction) yet without my consent, and the Votes of his Brethren, commanded the Sub Sextons to keep the Major out of that Seat. Whereupon Hee and his successors have since abandoned our

Quire-service and Sermons upon Sundays: so as wee shall have scarce 5 Lay Persons present, besides the Consistory and my ffamily, whereas formerly the whole City came into it.

It is such an unseasonable Quarrell for these troublesome Times (and as I heare is taken notice of in Scotland) as, if I may deliver my thoughts, I would have it sopited; (at least) till the Scottish Business be abated. And then afterwarde I doubt not but one Word from the higher Powers will reduce them to obedience, as shall be thought fit. And therefore (not to trouble his Ma:ty or the State with the notice thereof; nor to blow it further abroad) if you thought fit to write unto mee a private Letter, signifying that you heare of such a Business; and that you hold it meet that the Maior shall sit as his Predecessors have ever done when they came to our Quire Service, untill upon hearing of both sides other order shall be taken; or if you please to command mee (upon my Perill or paine of Censure) to see things ordered as may (in most likelyhood) prevent Tumult or Confusion, I will be accomptable unto you herein, whensoever you shall please to call me to it. Mine aym (God knows my heart) is only to cast Water on that fire which is already kindled; or, at leastwise, that none may gett a stick from this Place to increase the flame: our Citizens being already too sensible of that Punishment which they justly and lately received for Prin's Entertainment.

Now, I beseech your Grace, pardon this Trouble which I put you to, and be pleased to direct what course you will, and I shall follow it.

I pray God bless your Grace with long life and much happiness, and all ffavour with God, the King, and all good men. So prayeth from the very bottom of his Heart,

Your Gr: ever bounden and most obedient Servant,
JO: CESTRIEN:

Chester, Decemb. j, 1638."

It is clear from this letter that there existed an unfriendly feeling between the Bishop and the Chapter, owing probably to the Puritan and disloyal tendencies of the latter, under the influence of the Vice-Dean, John Ley. The Bishop himself was a stout loyalist. Clarendon attributes much of the attachment to the King's cause which was felt by the citizens of Chester to the influence of the Bishop, and his son Orlando. The letter also shows that the relative authority of the Bishop and the Dean in the Cathedral was not rightly understood: the Bishop denying that the Dean has any ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the Choir (wherein the Bishop is wrong); the Dean (Mallorie) asserting and exercising it in an arbitrary and offensive manner. We learn something also of the effect of the two preceding letters to the Dean and Chapter and the Mayor. It seems that the former had consented to forego the renewal of the Brewer's lease; and that the Mayor and Corporation had yielded obedience to the mandate from Archbishop Neile, for

that mandate had been only received by them at the close of the year 1637, and we find them "coming diligently to the Choir at the beginning of Service every Sunday" in 1638, until they were driven from it by the "unseasonable quarrell" with the Dean. The Bishop prudently, and perhaps truly in part, attributed this revival of the ancient practice to the good feeling of the Mayor (Thos. Throppe), who had been a Chorister and King's Scholar, but no doubt the Royal command had not been without its effect upon so good a Churchman and loyal a subject. Perhaps we may discern some symptom of personal ill-feeling on the part of the Puritan Dean against the orthodox and loyal Mayor.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

P.S.—Webb says, 1637, that there was "a great concurrence of the people to hear the public sermons in the choir," whereat, the Bishop says, "we have scarce five Lay Persons beside the consistory and my family." Who were "the consistory?"

[29] CHESTER RACES A CENTURY AGO.

In May, 1778, there were, as there will be in this week of 1878, only three days' racing; and, what is surprising in comparison with races now-a-days, there was only one purse or stake run for on each of the three days in 1778. Sir Hugh Williams won the Subscription Purse on the first day, May 4th; Mr. Fernyhough's was the successful horse on the second day, beating Lord Grosvenor's and four others; and Mr. Swinfen's horse, Royal, took the prize on the third day, another horse of the same name, Royal, being second. It may be supposed that cock-fighting and other elegant amusements helped to fill up each day; while in the evening the New Assembly Room at the Talbot, opened only the year before, was the great centre of attraction for the ladies, "everything," according to the papers of that time, "being conducted with the strictest degree of propriety!" *

EDITOR.

[30] DR. JOHNSON AT CHESTER.

(*Johnsoniana*, p. 432.)

Johnson visited Chester in 1774, in company with Mr. Mrs. and Miss Thrals. "We walked," he says, "round the walls, which are complete, and contain one mile three quarters and one hundred and one yards; within there are many gardens. They are very high, and two may walk very commodiously side by side. On the inside is a rail; there are towers from space to space, not very frequent, and I think not all complete." It would seem that while at Chester a little dispute between Johnson and Mrs. Thrals took place, for the lady thus writes to Mr. Duppa:—"Of those illfated walls Dr. Johnson might have learned the extent from any one. He has since fairly put me out of countenance by saying, 'I have known my mistress fifteen years,

* CHESTER RACES were held this year, 1878, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of May, some days later, it is believed, than at any period of their previous history. ED.

and never saw her fairly out of humour but on Chester Walls.' It was because he would keep Miss Thrale beyond her hour of going to bed, on the Walls, where for the want of light I apprehended some accident to her,—perhaps to him!" E. D.

[31] BENNETT FAMILY OF CHESTER.

It may interest some of your readers to know, as I find from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1798, that, at the end of the last century, there was existing in the remote parish church of Brickhill, co. Bedford, the following monument to a Chester man. It was painted upon a framed oak panel, placed against one of the south pillars. The inscription was, and possibly still remains, as follows:—

"Here beneath lyeth interred the body of William Bennett, son and heyre to William Bennett, of the city of Chester, Alderman and Justice of the Peace, who was Mayor of the said city, 1652. He died in this towne on his returne from London to Chester on the 19th day of March, 1658."

Arms on the tablet:—In a border engrailed argent, 2 bars gules, in chief a label of 3 points, on the upper bar a crescent or. Crest,—a horse's head argent (Bennett).

Also:—The same Bennett arms, impaling,—quarterly, first and fourth, three crescents argent; second and third, azure and gules, on a chevron engrailed between three martlets or, a crescent gules.

Gresford.

T. O. W.

[This family is one of very long continuance in Cheshire, but especially in the Hundred of Wirral; and in the merchant and professional ranks of the old city, and there are worthy members of it still resident there. A pedigree of the Bennetts (or Benets), of Barnston, will be found in Harl. MS. 2142, folio 162, b.—Ed.]

Queries.

[32] SIR WATKIN AND THE "SPARKLER."

"Between the years 1785 and 1795 there was a notable lady fitting about the fashionable world of Chester and Wrexham. Her father, Mr. Jones, was apparently a native of that neighbourhood, but resided in London; he was in some way connected with Sergeant's Inn, and is supposed to have been an architect. As far as is known he had but one daughter—her name, Anne Jones. The early part of her youth was principally spent at Wynnstay, where she was a great favourite of the then Sir Watkin, and a protégé of his, if not a ward. She is represented as having been somewhat of a beauty, and bore the title of "Miss Jones, the Sparkler," but I think she obtained the name from her vivacity and brilliancy of manner and conversation. She had no ordinary share of histrionic talent, and was the *prima*

donna in the amateur theatricals so much the rage at that day at Wynnstay and other great houses in Cheshire and on the border. My grandfather used to say that she excelled any of the professional ladies he had seen on the stage. She was, however, generally admired, and eventually married Mr. Jos. Greaves, then a merchant in Liverpool. She retained her vivacious and engaging manners to the last, but neither she nor her husband knew how to save money."

Anything further as to the parentage of this lady, and the place of her birth and burial, will be acceptable to a family connection of mine, from whom the foregoing has been recently received. A. B. F.

[33] THE "AP'S" AND "VERCHS" OF WELSH PEDIGREES.

Except in the more outlandish parts of Wales, I presume the abominable custom of tracing back family pedigrees by the Christian name alone,—as, "Thomas ap Robert ap Thomas ap Richard ap John," and "Gwen verch Davydd ap Evan ap Gwilym ap Gruffydd,"—must be now almost at an end. But can anyone versed in such matters say who was the heroic patriot who first managed to break up this genealogical "stone of stumbling?" Whoever he may have been, he deserves the eternal gratitude of all pedigree compilers.

PURSUIVANT.

[34] GALLOWES FIELD, KINDERTON.

Why so called? Is there any record or reliable tradition that a gallows was ever used there, and if so, on what occasion, and for whom? E. D.

[35] RIVER UNDER BEESTON CASTLE.

When quite a child, some five and forty years ago, I remember how old Charles Viggars of Beeston used to astonish me with his wonderful stories about this singularly-placed Cheshire Rock. The particulars of most of these have long since faded from my mind; one strange statement however has often recurred to me since, but I have never had the opportunity to verify or disprove it. Viggars used to declare that the river Gowy, which in its original course used to dash against the red rock of Beeston, and then, curling round it, pursue its swift track towards the Mersey, had in very early ages gradually burrowed a hole through the very base of the mountain, finding an exit and free course exactly on the opposite side. He said moreover (and it was that which most appealed to my childish imagination) that he had himself been down the well, entered from the summit of the hill, in the hope of finding the treasure said to have been secreted there during the Civil Wars; but that the only thing he found was that the so-called well was not a spring at all, but the current of the little river running under the mountain. Perhaps the old man was only joking to and seeking to amuse a mere child; but if so, I took him at the time to be certainly in earnest: or perhaps he was only relating a

piece of folk-lore current in the district. Be that however as it may, the CHESHIRE SHEAF seems a likely channel for arriving at the facts; and I should like to know, if it be true at all, where the points of ingress and egress of the river referred to are to be found, and whether any effort has ever been made to pass through this natural channel? G. T.

[36] LANCASHIRE WITHIN CHESHIRE.

I have heard or read somewhere that there is a small strip of Lancashire lying within the boundaries of the county of Chester. If this be so, where is the truant fragment situate,—how came it to wander thus from home,—and at what polling-place do its owners vote in elections for Lancashire? POLITICUS.

[37] CHAPEL IN CHESTER CASTLE.

The small chantry CHAPEL within the Castle of Chester, in which King James II. is said to have attended mass when he visited the city in 1681, has long been desecrated,—the lower chamber indeed is at this moment a magazine for gunpowder! Little is known of its history; but in its earlier days, when the Norman Earls resided close to its very portal, with all the pomp and circumstance of a semi-regal court, this little chapel must have taken its part in many an event it would be interesting to us now to know something about. More than one king and queen of England must have offered up their prayers within its walls. In a small MS. volume in the possession of Mr. Wynne Ffoulkes, of Chester, and apparently compiled by Woodnoth, of Shavington, a Cheshire antiquary of the 17th century, it is stated that "In the chappell where the Castell standeth, within Chester," are the following arms:—

1. Argent, fretty sable, on a chief sable, 3 plates argent.
2. Argent, 3 chevrons gules.
3. Argent, a saltire, a chief azure.
4. Bendy of 6, or and azure, a border gules.
5. Gules, on a bend azure, 5 plates arg.
6. Barry of 6, argent and azure, a label of 5 points gules.
7. Barry of 6, argent and azure, a bend lozengy gules.
8. Checky or and gules, a chief ermine.
9. Azure, 3 bends, a canton or.

Can it now be traced to what families respectively these arms belonged? T. H.

[38] "CHESTER BANK."

"Messrs. Rowton and Morhall respectfully inform the public, their Bank, in the Commercial Buildings, Chester, was opened, on Monday, December 26th, 1868." From an old newspaper. The names seem to be gone from Chester now. When, and why? H. Newton.

Replies.

[39] ROMAN COIN OF CONSTANS.
[No. 10.—MAY 1, 1878.]

An illustration of this coin appears in Gronovius' edition of Ammianus Marcellinus (Lugduni Batavorum), 1693.

The coin in question is given on Tab. III., No. 5. The Emperor, in his military cloak and buskins, is standing at the prow of a *biremis*. In his left hand he holds the labarum, and on his right a bird is perching, holding in its beak a laurel garland. At the stern a winged male figure is holding one of the rudders. The inscription FEL TEMP REPARATIO surrounds the device, and underneath appear the letters T.R.S. I have not seen any explanation of the coin other than that given by Gronovius, which I append in full.

TABULA III.

"5 Prodit memoriam expeditionis Constantis Britanniam, quam obiter attinget auctor pag: 254, acceptus ex thesauro Palatino, pag: 374, sane in quibusdam non ad similitudinem ejus, quam habet Tristannus tom. III., pag: 614."

On page 254 a simple statement is made that Constans undertook the expedition to Britain above referred to, and a note is appended which states that the expedition took place in the year 343. Ammian, in book 27, says that he described the country of Britain, but unfortunately the account forms part of the lost books. Gronovius says that Libanius, in *oratione quæ βασιλικῆς inscribitur* fixes the date of the expedition, and refers to the subscription of this coin. T.R.S. will therefore signify *Tertio regni sui*, or *Tertio regnante solo*, for by the death of Constantius his brother, Constans was left sole emperor of the west, A.D. 340.

FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO. may be *felicium temporum reparatio*, or *felix tempus reparatio*, which may be paraphrased as *Tout vient à qui sait attendre*.

No mention is made of this expedition by Gibbon, Lingard, or Merivale.

The King's School, Chester.

J. H.

[40] DANIEL'S ASH, HAWARDEN.
[No. 11.—MAY 1.]

Allow me to suggest that the archaic name of this farm was not DANIEL'S, but DEINIOEL'S Ash. Next to the ancient castle, this is perhaps the oldest estate in the parish; especially if, as I think, it took its name from the tree under which St. Deiniol preached to those early converts of his who built the original church in the village close by, dedicating it to him who first brought the glad tidings to their doors. The Aldersey family were the owners of Deiniol's, or Daniel's, Ash in the 16th century. T. H.

[41] PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR.

[No. 18.—MAY 1.]

John Pemberton, ropemaker, a member of an old Chester family, about the year 1700 established a repe-walk within the Walls, between King-street and the Water Tower. It is said to have been his custom to sit under this old alcove, watching his men and boys at work in the pretty grove below. Hence arose its name of PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR. L. L.

[42] GOD'S CROFT.

[No. 12.—MAY 1.]

Midway between Frodsham and Helsby there is a farm called "God's CROFT." It consists of about 75 acres of flat land, but cannot be said to occupy any peculiar position. It is in the Frodsham Lordship and township of Netherton, between the Mersey and Delamere Forest. M. BLEZARD.

Thornton-le-Moors.

In your last week's paper an enquiry is made as to the above. Considerable change has taken place in the River Mersey from Eastham by Thornton and Frodsham. At some remote period the river and tide must have flowed over Trafford, under Dunham and Helsby. Under the latter during a storm, the navigation must have been not only uncertain but dangerous. Hence the old designation, now by centuries of use abbreviated from Hell's Bay to Helsby. Approaching Frodsham is a spot safer for vessels and sheltered; this is called God's CROFT. The precise locality is a farm and house, formerly occupied by Mr. Arthur Lewis, but now sold to the railway company. This farm-house was one of the earliest homes of Wesleyan Methodism in Cheshire; and, far back into the last century, religious services were held there under the wing of the Lewis family. M. HARRISON.

Castle-street, Chester.

MAY 22, 1878.

Notes.

[43] DESTROYED CHURCHES IN CHESTER.

No doubt in so old a city as Chester, there must have been many CHURCHES and CHAPELS of early date which had passed out of use, and even remembrance, long before the reformation. Christianity had asserted itself in the city for fully a thousand years, and it can scarcely be questioned that many an early dedication, in wood as well as stone, had in that long interval vanished from the scene, and left literally no sign. But from the 15th

to the 17th centuries traces of the process survive in local story. St. Chad's, in the Crofts, somewhere between Trinity-street, St. Martin's Fields, and the City Walls, is an instance in point, the very site of the church being now unknown, though there are deeds in existence which refer to it as once standing within the limits we have indicated. The chapels of St. Thomas a Becket, in the Liverpool-road, and the two more recently existing chapels and near neighbours in Boughton, are examples of sacred buildings now no more, although we know pretty well about the spots on which they stood. In our own day the church of St. Bridget's has passed away, the handsome fountain erected by Mr. Meadows Frost sufficiently marking the site. And now we have the itching fingers of the "improver" anxious to be at work on the old church of St. Peter's, at the High Cross, which seems likely soon to become a prey to the destroyer. From all this it would appear that the inviolability of places once consecrated was not always insisted upon, even in what may be termed sacerdotal times. On the contrary, these facts would argue that then, as now, fashion or convenience, or commerce, or perhaps all these combined, nay, even sometimes mere personal whim and caprice, dictated the retention or otherwise of ancient religious edifices.

EDITOR.

[44] FENIAN RAID ON CHESTER.

Eleven years have elapsed since this adroitly planned but fortunately discovered, plot to seize the ancient city and castle broke like a thunderbolt upon us all. The incident, startling as it was at the time, has passed into the domain of history now; a suggestion or two, then, in reference to it may not be out of place in the CHESHIRE SHEAF. It seems to me that nothing for a century or two has occurred at Chester so fraught with serious consequences to the city and country as that treasonable attempt must have proved, had not the conspirators' antidote—the informer—enabled the arm of authority to counteract it. Surely, then, now that aroused passions and prejudices on both sides thereon have, as we may hope, entirely subsided; and now that we are able to review the whole facts, free from the frenzy and exaggeration (and, I might add, the senseless ridicule and unbelief) of the immediate day; it will be worth the while of some efficient pen acquainted personally with all the circumstances, to write the history of that, thank God, futile attempt on the sacredness of law and order. The whole thing is possible now; twenty years hence the men best qualified by personal knowledge and official position to undertake the duty will likely enough have all passed away. I have one in my mind's eye now, who was then, as he is still, an energetic servant of the city, and who must almost of necessity have at his command information that has never perhaps to this hour been fully made known. G. T.

[45] TREASURE TROVE AT CHESTER.

Near two centuries ago, what seems from the description to have been a small ingot of silver was accidentally discovered during some ploughing operations at Brewer's Hall farm, on the banks of the Dee at Chester. The old house, by the way (and an interesting one it was too, in many ways), was taken down only last year. The lucky finder of the silver was one William Shone, a parishioner of St. Mary's, who, it would seem, at once and in the most honourable spirit handed over his prize to the Corporation as "treasure trove." Accordingly, on the 18th of June, 1686, the ingot was produced in the Council Chamber, and the following record was placed upon the Minutes of the Assembly:—

"Ordered, by unanimous consent, that the Treasurers of this city shall pay to William Shone of Handbridge, the sum of five pounds, to encourage and reward his honesty and faithfulness in delivering to Mr. Maior a peice of melted silver, being treasure trove, found by him, the said William Shone, in Brewer's Hall ground, within the County of this City."

Turning now to the Corporate Receipts and Payments for the same year, I find in the latter, under date

"June 28.—Given William Shone, by order of Assembly, as a gratitute for finding a wedge of silver, weighing forty-nine ounces, 3 quarters..... 05: 00: 00"

And, under the Receipts for

"July 8.—Received of Mr. Walley, ye goldsmith, for a wedge of silver weighing forty-nine ounces, 3 quarters, at 4s. 11d. ye ounce..... 12: 04: 03"

All honour to the memory of the finder, and of the Council of that day who so liberally rewarded him!

T. HUGHES.

[46] LLANASA ENCLOSURE ACT.

I often think that our grandsires were much braver men than we are. Many of them in the early part of the present century spent a good deal of money in reclaiming waste lands, and thus helped to enrich their children and the nation at the same time. In the year 1811, some of these excellent people finding about sixteen hundred acres of "marshes, commons, and waste lands" near the mouth of the Dee, and within the parish of LLANASA, in the county of Flint, which could be utilized, put their heads and purses together to carry a Bill through Parliament enabling them to enclose the wastes in question, so that they might "be of advantage to the several persons interested therein, and also be of great public utility;" and upon the 10th day of June, in the year aforesaid, good old King George assented to this measure, and it forthwith became law.

I happen to have in my Welsh collection of MSS. a fair record of what steps these excellent men took to put this law into practice; and as many a future student may be plucking out of your SHEAF some straws of knowledge upon local affairs, I purpose to tell you how our

grandsires proceeded to carry out the powers which their lord the King had granted thus to them.

On the 14th of October, 1811, they met and walked that part of the boundary within the parish of Axton which abutted upon the parishes of Gwaenysoor and Newmarket.

On the following day, they walked the boundary between the townships of Kelston and Picton, and part of the boundary of the parish, from Uffern (*Hell*) to the road leading from Llanasa to Gwaenysgor to the south of Golden-grove.

Having in this way made themselves acquainted with the *locus in quo*, they appointed a meeting to hear evidence respecting any disputed points, as between Llanasa and Newmarket parishes. They had thus let loose the waters of strife, and I can see from the record that they must have had a warm time of it. However, they worked away on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of November, and appear to have ascertained "the boundaries between the different townships, and between the parishes of Llanasa and Whitford;" and having then had enough of this sort of labour for the time, they agreed to meet again at Holywell on the 9th day of December, upon which day "Mr. Wynne, of Mold, attended and proposed that the different matters should be argued by counsel."

This wise and judicious advice being accepted, on the 21st of February, 1812, the Commissioners appointed under the Act sat at Holywell, with Mr. Hill as assessor. Mr. Cross attended as counsel for Llanasa, Mr. Evans for Newmarket; and before the sitting had closed "the boundary as set by the Lord of the Manor of Picton and Axton, and the parishioners of Llanasa, was confirmed." On the following day "Sir Thomas M. Stanley, Bart.'s claims to common rights were canvassed, and it was decided that his rights were confined to the commons in the township of Trelogan."

On the 13th of March, the Commissioners met again, and they settled the claims of Mr. Longueville Jones and Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart., in the last-mentioned township, and Sarn Hwlkin; the scribes recording with some malice, "at this meeting no counsel attended;" as much as to say "we did very well without them," or perhaps indeed even better, for Messrs. Cross and Evans were proverbial for bothering the unlearned in the law at all times.

March 25th.—Mr. Wedge attended at Llanasa to lay out the embankment, and it was then decided to call "a meeting of the Freeholders to consider which may be the most eligible line to bring it to the south east of Gwtter Fawr (the *Great Gutter*), Mr. Wedge meanwhile being employed upon the line between that point and the Light-house, which runs nearly the whole way upon a shally." Now Mr. Wedge must have been a sharpish sort of man, for upon the following day it is recorded "The line of the embankment beyond Gwtter Fawr is laid out, and poles are fixed to the extent of two hundred

yards to direct the workmen to what height the Bank is to be raised," and then it is added "The first sod is to be cut to-morrow—Good Friday, that being the day upon which all undertakings under the River Dee Company are commenced."

I may well pause at this point to enquire if Mr. Green followed this wholesome rule, when he commenced his new embankment near Connah's Quay? Judging from results, Good Friday must have been a lucky day in the history of the old Company, and the neglect of it might be a danger to be well avoided.

On Good Friday in the year of Grace 1812, the first sod of Llanasa Embankment was cut, in the presence of my very old friend the late Rev. Henry Parry, who had taken with him "John Sheldon, Charles Cartwright, Edward Jones, and others, as witnesses of the event. Sir Pyers Mostyn giving a guinea to drink on the occasion." So much of the embankment as had been laid out by Mr. Wedge had been divided into five lettings, and the careful scribe says, "Three bargains were taken in the evening upon Mr. Wedge's terms; two remained open."

I suspect from the memoranda before me, that considerable difference of opinion existed as to the line of the remainder of the proposed embankment; but in June, 1812, it was finally decided, for "in consequence of Mr. Wedge's report of the expense and risk attending the outer line, a middle one was adopted which is to be carried to the West of *Glastir* gravelly beach, and to terminate near the East end of *Gadlas Lundain*." Quickly and well was the work done, so that upon the 27th April, 1813, "the Commissioners began to value the enclosed lands in the township of Gwespyr. On the 4th of May, an advertisement appeared in the *Chester Courant* prohibiting "the turning out of commonable cattle, except sheep, upon Gwespyr and Píoton marshes." On the 12th of the same month the Commissioners met at Holywell to determine what roads should be laid down, and on the 1st December "the respective allotments were set out upon paper."

It is probable that all the persons who had been engaged upon this useful work are now removed "to the home across the river." Let this record remain, then, a testimony to their worth, and a guide to future enquirers who may desire to know somewhat of the history of the "Llanasa Embankment."

Glan Aber, Chester.

E. G. S.

Queries.

[47] THE REV. R. FARRINGTON, M.A., 1741.

Can any of your correspondents give me any information about the REV. R. FARRINGTON, who appears to have been beneficed in the diocese of St. Asaph, but not

very far from Chester? He was the author of a privately printed volume of sermons—a copy of which, now before me, bears the following title:—

Twenty | Sermons | upon the following subjects |
 | By R. F., A.M. | :

Quotation | London | Printed for the author, 1741. |
 8vo., Title. Dedication, 8 pp. Subscribers' names, 16pp. Sermons, p. 1 to p. 316.

The dedication is "to the Right Reverend Father in God, Isaac, Lord Bishop of St. Asaph," and is signed R. Farrington. The List of Subscribers is a very full one, occupying no less than 16 closely printed pages, and containing a large number of names in Chester, and Cheshire generally, and also many from Lancashire. Was the author a Lancashire or Cheshire man by birth? The name is a well known Lancashire one.

Withington.

J. P. E.

[48] ABYLL,—A STOCKPORT TENURE.

In a Great-Leet Court held at Stockport in the 11th year of Queen Elizabeth, before Ralph Warren, gent., Steward of the Manor, and Thomas Nicholasson, Mayor of the said town, Thomas Burdysell, son of John Burdysell, late of Stockport, deceased, is admitted to do homage for his late father's tenements there, on the payment of ABYLL. What is this *Abyll*?

Stockport.

HENRY HEGINBOTHAM.

[49] CHESTER "SWEET WATER."

In the fragment of a letter from some female correspondent addressed to my grandmother, who then resided at Wrexham, she refers to the custom at Chester of drinking "sweet water," apparently a substitute for malt liquor. The letter, the date of which would be about 1790, has nothing further in it of local interest, or I would have sent it bodily to the CHESHIRE SHEAF. What was this "sweet water" so popular with the Cestrians? Can it have been the modern lemonade, or its brown-ware-bottled substitute still known as "pop"?

J. S. H.

[50] ROMAN SALT-PANS FOUND AT NORTHWICH.

Some few years ago a discovery was made in our rickety old town of some LEADEN SALTPANS, one of which bore letters and ornaments which were at the time regarded as Roman. These relics are, I am afraid, lost—perhaps they were melted down for the mere lead's sake—at any rate we Northwich-ers have seen nothing of them since. If you can elicit any intelligence about them, I shall be glad.

Northwich.

A. WALLER.

[51] HORSLEY HALL, NEAR GRESFORD.

There is, I believe, a tradition that a murder was committed in the old Hall at HORSLEY, in the closing years of the Powell family's connection with the place; and it is even said that it was recorded in verse, some years after the event. Should the story, whether in

prose or verse, have been at any time printed, I dare say some one acquainted with the fact will kindly state where it may be referred to ?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[52] **WHITWASH IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.**

Most of the interiors of our older churches have been whitewashed apparently from a very early period. As the authorities are now beginning to perceive that the normal tint of the "new red sandstone" of Cheshire is preferable to any artificial colour, it may be well to enquire in what age the lime wash first intruded itself into our ecclesiastical buildings? Any information thereon, of a local character, will be of interest to me.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

Replies.

[53] **RANDLE HOLME'S GIFT TO THE HERALDS' COLLEGE.**

[No. 15.—MAY 8.]

The following interesting extracts from the Chapter Books, &c., of Heralds' College, in illustration of RANDLE HOLME's letter inserted in the CHESHIRE SHEAF for May 8th, have been kindly supplied by Stephen Tucker, Esq., "Rouge Croix," at the instance of Mr. Charles Bridger, of London.

EDITOR.

There are two copies of Holme's "*Academie of Armoury*, 1688," in the College of Arms, one of which is a presentation copy. On the back of the engraved title is pasted a blank shield, with helmet and mantling, and the arms of Randle Holme tricked in, namely:—"Barry of six or and azure, on a canton ermine a rose gules." Crest:—"A cubit arm vested, barry of six or and azure, the hand holding a branch of three roses gules, stalked and leaved proper." Underneath is written, "Patior vinco Patientiam." Beneath is written, or rather printed by hand, "The Gift of Randle Holme, of the city of Chester, Herald Painter, to the Worshipful Colledge of Heralds, Ano. M.DC.XCII."

The Chapter Books record, under date "2 June, 1692,"—"There not being voices enow to make a Chapter, no Business was Entered upon, only the Reg'r gave folio of the Society as were present an acco't of a Large folio printed Book of Heraldry he had rec'd from Randle Holme, of Chester, who published the same, and read Mr. Holme's J're, the consideration whereof was referred to the next Chapter." Then, on "4 August, 1622, The Reg'r offerd to the Chapter Holme's Book of Heraldry, and read two L'res from ye s'd Mr. Holme to the Reg'r touching the same: Agreed, that he be answered that the Licensing of such Books is in the Earl Marshall, and that Mr. Norroy is not in Town."

STEPHEN TUCKER, Rouge Croix.

Heralds' College, 4th May, 1878.

[54]

LEAD WORKS, CHESTER.

[Nos. 8 AND 26.—MAY 1 AND 8.]

As my father was manager of these WORKS for many years, and as I was born in the house now occupied by Mr. A. O. Walker at the works, I may be allowed to say a few words on the subject. My father came to Chester in the year 1800, and found the Shot Tower just commenced upon, the foundations being built, and he superintended the completion of the Shot Tower as well as the other buildings. He continued manager to Messrs. Walker, Parker, and Co., until Sir Edward Walker came to reside in Chester, about 1880. I think I have heard that when Messrs. Walker, Parker, and Co., first thought of establishing works in Chester they had almost decided upon Edgar's Field, Handbridge, as the locality; but, as the "Ellesmere and Chester Canal" was just at that time nearly ready to be opened, the present site was considered to be the best. There was, as will be remembered by some, a Shot Tower and Lead Works in Commonhall-street; but these were not, so far as I understand, so old-established as Messrs. Walker's works.

BRYAN JOHNSON.

King-street.

[55]

THE CONSISTORY.

[No. 28.—MAY 15.]

I take it that Bishop Bridgeman, in his incidental use of this term in his letter to the Archbishop, meant to include the families of the then Registrar and other officers of the Ecclesiastical Court, the Seneschal of the Dean and Chapter, his own Private Secretary, and the few other actual residents, at that date, within the bailiwick of the Abbey.

L. L.

[56]

PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR.

[Nos. 13 AND 41.—MAY 1 AND 15.]

Your correspondent "L. L." has omitted to state that John Pemberton, ropemaker, whose name has so long been associated with the old Tower on the City Walls, was Mayor of Chester in 1780; and, further, that a tablet bearing his name will be found attached to the Water Tower, as viewed from the Public Grounds adjoining.

G. T.

["W. T. P." will see that his second Query on this subject has been somewhat anticipated by "G. T.'s" Reply.—ED.]

MAY 29, 1878.

Original Documents.

[57]

THE TWENTY-NINTH OF MAY.

To-day being the anniversary of the Restoration, it may be worth giving space in the CHESHIRE SHEAF to a transcript of the Address of Congratulation, presented to King Charles the Second on that occasion by

the loyal citizens of Chester. The original is preserved among the State Papers, Domestic Series (Vol. I, No. 26). The then Mayor, John Johnson, was doubtless the same person who, in February 1646, was appointed one of the Commissioners on behalf of the city to treat with Sir William Brereton's Commissioners on the part of the Parliament, after the second Siege of Chester.

South Kensington.

CHARLES BRIDGER.

"The Most humble representation of ye dutifull affections of the Major and Citizens of your Majesties ancient City of Chester.

May it please your Most Excellent Ma'tie.

"We, your Ma'ties most humble and loyall subjects, ye Citizens of your faithfull City of Chester; (having never tempo[r]ized w'th any irregular power, by any Adresse made to them: since ye death of your most Royall Father, and our most gracious Sovereigne of Glorious memory): conceiving it agreeable to our former, ancient, approved Loyalty, and to our present highly incumbent duty: do presume to make this, our most humble, and submissive addresse, to your most gracious Ma'ty. We are unwilling to disturbe your most serene Ma'ties present joyes; by ye remembrance of our past sufferings: only we do revere, and bless ye Divine Majesty: whose most adorable, and miraculous conduct hath happily restored your Sacred, and incomparable Person inviolate to us. We shall ever pray for the perpetuating of your Ma'ties felicity, and will manifest to ye whole world, that we are most Loyall; and true Subjects and Liegemen to your Ma'tie, our most Dread Sovereigne, and most illustrious Earle of Chester. Whom God preserve long and prosperously to raigne over us. Signed in the name of ye Aldermen and Common Councell of ye City of Chester,

JOHN JOHNSON, Major."

Indorsed—"To his most Excellent Ma'tie Charles, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging."

[58] RICHARD BRADSHAW, OF CHESTER.

Among the "Domestic State Papers,—Interregnum, 1650," is an Original Letter from Richard Bradshaw of Chester to Sergt. John Bradshaw, President of the Council of State. It is written on both sides of the first half of a sheet, folded, and addressed

"Ffor the R't Honor'ble John Bradshaw, Esq. Lord Presidente of the Most Honor'ble Councell of State, Whitehall.

Chester, 2 March, 1640-50.

Rig't Honor'ble

"My good hopes and earnest desires was to have given yo'r Lor'pp a numerous announcement of Subscribers to the Ingagement within this City; but there have been none heere specially commanded to take subscriptions since the setting forth of the Act, and (to give yo'r Lor'pp the whole truth, which is my duty) not one Justice of the Peace within the City,—

Mayor, Recorder, or other excepte Mr. Aldersey and myselfe,—have either taken the Ingagement, or given Countenance to them that have or woulde: the Commonaltie (who heere as in all Corporations beinge cheifely led by example of their Governours) doe not yet subscribe. Some few officers of the Excise, and aboute halfe a score of the best affected cittizens have subscribed the Ingagement before Mr. Aldersey and myselfe: I heare not of any more att present. The reason, I conceive, of the People's backwardness heere is cheifely the frequent deterringe arguments from pulpitta, whence the ridgid Presbyterians shake the unstable myndes of men, settinge the Ingagement directly in opposition to the Covenant, charging Covenant-breaking and Perjury upon all that have subscribed, to the reall scandall of many; labouringe to render them odious to the people, and yet all is wooven soe cunningly, as the thread appears not wherewith to bind up such zealotts. I have questioned with some, touchinge their lavishness in this kinde: their answer is, they, by authoritie of Parliament, pressed the Covenant upon these people, and now, beinge persuaded that the present Ingagement slasheth with it, they conceive themselves in duty bounde to warne the people of their danger. Truly, my Lord, if under this specious pretence of duty they study to amuse the people, and some speedie course be not taken to restrayne their libertie (in this City, County, and Lancashire) which they take to withoulde the people (that I say not shew themselves opposed) from a peaceable submittinge to your present Government, I doubt the Prejudice may be greate, in case opportunitee offers for the people's appearinge, accordinge to those Principles daly from such heights distilled into them.

"My humble opinion is that two or three able ministers sent down to these northerne partes to determine the People by sound reason for the duty of Ingageinge, and to show the equity of subscribinge, as consistent with the reall ends of the Covenant, woulde effectually doe the worke. And such a warrantable way of countermyning the adverse party woulde (in my poore judgment, wherein I humbly submit) better sute with the present condition of these partes, than any order of Parliament to silence or punish crafty incendiaries who, beinge themselves (I feare) resolved to oppose the present Government (if they shall be enabled by opportunitee), court to bee esteemed by the people under the notion of Persecution. But I presume too farre to trouble your Lo'pp in this particular. If I may not appear too presuminge, I humbly offer my arrangement touchinge the settlinge of the Militia heere, which yo'r Lo'pp gave into my charge. I have so well felt the pulce of our leadinge men and the People in the business of the Ingagement, that I dare not promise to give yo'r Lo'pp any good assurance of a considerable number, either for Officers or Soldiers out of the Cittizens for such a Service. When the Springe is over, and nothinge of action appeares (the expectation whereof att present

amuset many) I presume the myndes of men, now strong, will settle in a calme submission with a satisfactorie ingeinge to it, and then some trust may bee reposed.

"I am sorry I cannot give yo'r Honour a better carracter of this Citty, which I should bee glad to see henceforwards, by some signal service, to deserve a good opinion from the State, but I must discharge my duty.

"I intend (God willinge) within ten days to wait on the most Hon'ble Councell of State to receive theire further pleasure in the Service designed to mee. It would be much my encouragement, heere, if more able to serve their Honours. I shall not presume further to detain yo'r Lor'pps, but humbly subscribe, My Lord, "Yo'r Lor'pps most humble servant

RICHARD BRADSHAW."

He seals with his armorial bearings,—“Quarterly, first and fourth, argent, between two bendlets three mullets, sable; second and third, azure, a chevron, or.” Crest: “On a helmet, a stag trippant, proper.”

The Ingagement referred to in this letter, “to serve the Commonwealth without King or Lords,” was ordered to be subscribed to by every person in the service of the State, Public Schools, Universities, &c.” The Mr. Aldersey named in the letter was Alderman Thomas Aldersey, Mayor of Chester in 1640.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

Notes.

[59] THE ORDER OF THE ROYAL OAK.

After the restoration of monarchy in the person of Charles the Second it was proposed to institute a new order of Knighthood, the members of which were to be styled the “Knights of the Royal Oak,” in honour of the then popular “Twenty-ninth of May.” Only those were to be considered eligible for the distinction who had rendered special and important service to the “Martyr King,” and had distinguished themselves in the late troubles. The project was however abandoned, it being judged that the institution of such an Order “might create heats and animosities and open those wounds afresh which at that time were thought prudent should be healed.”

In the MS. of Peter le Neve, Norroy, a list of the intended Knights is given, Cheshire furnishing a very considerable contingent, as will be seen by the following names which appear among the number:—

	Value p. an.		£
Darce Savage.....	1,000	Sir Thos. Mainwaring, Kt	1000
James Poole, Esq.....	2,000	Sir Thos. Wilbraham, Kt (Woodhey).....	3,000
Thos. Cholmondeley, Esq.	2,000	John Crew, Esq.....	1,000
— Leigh, of Lyme.....	4,000	Edw. Spencer, Esq.....	600
Peter Wilbraham.....	1,000	Henry Harpur.....	600
Roger Wilbraham.....	1,000	Thos. Baskerville (Old Withington).....	1,000
Roger Grosvenor, of Eaton	3,000		

It is worthy of note that one of the proposed Knights was Mr. Henry Cromwell, “first cousin, one remove, to Oliver, Lord Protector,” a zealous royalist who had been instrumental in the restoration of the King; but who, knowing that “the name of Cromwell would not be very grateful in the court of Charles the Second, disused it, and styled himself only plain Henry Williams,* Esq., by which name he was set down in the list of persons as were to be made Knights of the Royal Oak.”

JAMES CROSTON, F.S.A.

Upton, Macclesfield.

[60]

OAK APPLE DAY.

I send as my offering to THE SHEAF the following extract from a letter addressed on June 1st, 1870,—

“To the Editor of the *Chester Courant*.—Sir, Permit a stranger from the States on this his second day's sojourn in England, to record a few words of brotherly greeting to the Old World from the New. Liverpool, where a large number of us yesterday first touched the loved land of our fathers, has few charms for American eyes; so it needed no persuasion from the pioneers of our party to at once take the cars for old Chester—a pleasure to which we had been looking forward from the very commencement of our passage. Here, then, in this quaint old city of yours, we found ourselves this glorious Sunday morning, our first duty being to attend Divine service at the Cathedral, and to return public thanks for our safe voyage across the Atlantic. In the afternoon I rambled about your wonderful old streets and piazzas; and though I am not going to attempt any description of them in this letter, I will just say in half a dozen words that the sight as I saw it was worth a European pilgrimage to see. True, it was Sabbath, and all the shops and stores were closed; but never mind that, it was all the same dream-land and fairy-land to me, and I seem to love it and cling to it with quite a childlike love. But now to my main object in addressing you. I noticed as I threaded my way up and down that many gentlemen I met were wearing a spray of oak in their breast button-holes, and that many a clean and orderly cottage on my route had hanging out a branch, and sometimes a bough, of your sturdy English oak. I wondered what all this could mean, when suddenly the truth flashed upon me, that it was “the twenty-ninth of May!”—the “Oak Apple Day,” of which our grandmothers used to tell us years long ago, in our Massachusetts home. Yes; here were the descendants of those who greeted the restoration of that monarchy from which we afterwards broke away, still keeping up the memory of those days when Englishmen with one voice, aye, and with open arms, welcomed back their exiled king, after 14 years' taste of Republican rule! And let your country thank God that this was the destiny in store for it. Democracy has thriven on transatlantic soil; but, depend upon it, sir, the liberty you enjoy in this island sanctuary of yours has no superior anywhere on God's earth. Be thankful, then, for the Constitutional Government you live under, and by all means foster the love of your οἱ παλλες for the 29th of May! I counted, as I rambled through your streets and alleys, more than twenty houses on the

* The name borne by the family before the marriage of Richard Williams with the sister of Thomas Cromwell, the Prime Minister of Henry VIII.

fronts of which this oak branch, to-day's green emblem of loyalty, was displayed; but I noticed what I was sorry to note, that it was upon the cottage homes of your artizans mainly that this loyal badge was to be seen. Why, good sir, is this? Surely the middle and upper strata of Old England have equal reasons with the lower to be proud of the memories of that royal oak bough! Our "Oak Apple Day" is the 4th of July, and all in the States, rich and poor, irrespective of race, colour, or religion, display their best bunting, and all make merry on that festive day. Surely, then, here in England, and especially in this pre-eminently loyal city of Chester, every house front and every honest breast should sport its twig of oak on "the twenty-ninth of May!"—Yours, &c., AN AMERICAN. Chester, 29th May, 1870."

This letter is so characteristic of the child-like reverence for things past, felt by intelligent Americans while visiting the island home of their forefathers, that it quite deserves to be bound up among the firstfruits of the "Cheshire Sheaf." T. T.

[61] CHESHIRE IN FULLER'S DAYS.

Dear old Thomas Fuller, to whose quaint aphorisms and "mixt cōtemplations" one may at all times turn with both profit and pleasure, has the following honourable reference to Cheshire, under the heading of

"SHARR AND SHARR ALIKE."

"Cheshire hath formerly been called 'chief of men.' Indeed, no county in England of the same greatness, or (if you will rather), of the same littleness, can produce so many families of ancient gentry. Now, let it break the stomachs, but not the hearts—abate the pride, not destroy the courage, of the inhabitants of this shire, that they miscarried in their late undertakings, not so much by any defect in *them* as fault in *others*. If ten men together be to lift a log, all must jointly *συνάντιλαμβάνειν*, that is, heave up their parts for rather their counterparts) together. But if nine of them fail, it is not only uncivil but unjust that one man should be expected to be a giant to do ten men's work. Cheshire is Cheshire (and so I hope will ever be), but it is not all England; and valour itself may be pressed down to death under the weight of multitude. The Lord Bacon would have rewards given to those men who, in the quest of natural experiments, make probable mistakes, both because they are industrious therein, and because their observations may prove instructions to others after them; and to speak plainly, an ingenious miss is of more credit than a bungling casual hit. On the same account let Cheshire have a reward of honour, the whole kingdom faring the better for this country's faring the worse."

This refers, I conceive, to the failure in 1659 of Sir George Booth's rising in Cheshire for the Restoration of Charles the Second. There had been a general understanding among the Royalists that a simultaneous rising should take place in each county of England on a certain day; but when the day arrived, one county waited for the other—this one lacked decision, that held back through fear,—thus, no systematic movement took place, and the design was frustrated. Cheshire alone maintained its ancient fame, and the Royalists there,

under the leadership of Sir George Booth, seized the city of Chester for their exiled King, but failed to secure possession of the Castle, through the vigilance of the governor, Col. Croxton. A battle was soon afterwards fought at Winnington Bridge, near Northwich, in which General Lambert defeated Sir George, the Royalists of other counties failing to turn out to his support. Thus the Restoration was deferred for one whole year, for, as old Fuller almost proverbially expresses it, "Cheshire is Cheshire, but it is not and cannot be all England!" T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[62] "THE ARCH-REBEL FOUND."

Can you tell me who was the author of "The Arch-Rebel Found; or an Answer to M. H.'s Brief Enquiry into the True Nature of Schism, by T. W., Citizen of Chester, and a sincere lover of Truth. Printed for the Author, in the year 1690?" I suppose "M. H." is Matthew Henry, the Commentator, then resident and ministering in Chester. J. P. EARWAKER.

[63] MOCKBEGGARS' HALL.

There was, early in the present century, a mansion bearing this outlandish name, somewhere in the Hundred of Wirral. As I cannot now find it in the map, it has possibly been pulled down; but I may be permitted to ask where it was situate,—why it was so called,—and any particulars relating to it likely to interest your readers?

Tarporley.

E. L. L.

[64] POLLUTION OF THE RIVER DEE.

In Mr. Helsby's valuable *List of the Justices Itinerant of Cheshire*, taken from the Plea and Recognizance Rolls of the county, now being calendared in the Public Record Office, London, I find a matter hinted at which is not without its counterpart in the present day. It would appear that the existence of crying nuisances in the water of the Dee was, even at the dawn of the sixteenth century, made the subject of judicial enquiry. Mr. Helsby's note thereon in his *New Edition of ORMEROD'S HISTORY OF CHESHIRE*, vol. i., p. 68, runs as follows:—

"18 Henry VII. 1 May, 1503. Master Robert Frost, Chancellor of Prince Henry, Sir Randal Brereton, Kt., John Challoner, and William Tatton, to inquire of all nuisances, &c., levied in the waters of Dee."

I fear we may never hope to know, at this great distance of time, what were the particular nuisances then needing reformation in the Dee, nor whether the judicial enquiry instituted as above had any practical effect. But it may, perhaps, be possible to ascertain somewhat as to the legal functionaries

who constituted the court. I venture therefore to ask a few genealogical particulars of these ancient men of law, three at least of whom, I imagine, were either Cheshire or neighbouring county personages? I see, by the way, that they are, neither of them, mentioned in Mr. Salisbury's privately printed volume of "Border County Worthies."

Holt.

J. C.

Replies.

[65] HAZEL WAND FOUND IN TOMBS.

[No. 21.—May 8, 1878.]

The hazel stick found in the two ancient tombs in Chester Cathedral named by G. T., as also in a similar grave of Abbot Birohylls in the Lady Chapel there, many years before, shews the prevalence of superstition amongst even people in high places in the earlier days of the English Church. Its use, under such circumstances, was held to be an antidote against witchcraft and all other evils in the future of the deceased. I am aware that the wand so placed in the grave has been regarded by some antiquaries as a badge of authority, and I know that the bishop's pastoral staff or the abbot's crook is not unfrequently so found; but I can see no reason why a mere roughly-cut switch of the hazel tree should be regarded as a religious symbol. My belief is that blind superstition was at the bottom of it all.

T. T.

[66] GALLOWES FIELD, KINDERTON.

[No. 34.—MAY 15.]

In reply to the query of "E. D.," "whether a gallows was ever used at Kinderton, and on what evidence?" I may mention that there are five fields at Kinderton so designated, viz.:—Gallows Field, Great Gallows Field, Middle Gallows Field, Far Gallows Field, and Little Gallows Field. All adjoin, and no doubt originally formed one field. They are situate at the S. end of "Lodge Lane," on the E. side, and at the junction of four lane ends, the other roads leading to Brereton, Bradwall, and Cledford.

The fields are those numbered 142, 176, 205, 206, and 243 on the large size ordnance map.

In 1594 there were sundry matters in dispute between Sir William Brereton, of Brereton, Knight, and Thomas Venables, Baron of Kinderton—adjoining landowners—which were referred to four of the leading gentry of the county. One related to a right of way from Brereton to Middlewich, claimed by the Knight through the Baron's land. The award, dated 15th April, 1591, describes the road in question as commencing with "Stone Lake Lane," continuing on to "Bidam leys," and "then turning down Gallows Lane to Gallows Gate, and from thence through the Demesne lands of the said

Thomas Venables, in Kinderton aforesaid, into the gate called Broad Oke Gate, or the place where the same gate did stand, and there falling into the highway leading from Holmes Chapel to Middlewich."

The above clearly identifies the locality of the Gallows Field, and as the land now bearing the name. The Brereton road in 1594 would be "Gallows Lane;" and Lodge Lane, which goes through the Demesne, and falls into the highway leading from Holmes Chapel to Middlewich, would be the road "from Gallows Gate."

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Kinderton (18 April, 39 Eliz.) contain the following record of an execution, the original being in Latin:—"Item, The jury present, on their solemn oaths, that John Croxton de Ravenscroft, in the County of Chester, holds certain lands and tenements with the appurtenances in Kinderton of the Lord of this Manor, by the service (*inter alia*), to find for the said Thomas Venables and his heirs one hangman to hang murderers and felons whenever such work is required to be done within the Manor or fee of Kinderton aforesaid. They further say on their solemn oaths that the aforesaid John Croxton procured and brought a certain John Lingard, alias Barratt, as hangman for the said Thomas Venables, to hang one Hugh Stringer, in Sproston, in the County of Chester; who the same Hugh Stringer then hung, for that, feloniously and with malice aforethought, he murdered one Ann Crannage, and Cecillia Crannage, her daughter, at Sproston aforesaid. And they also say upon their solemn oaths that the aforesaid John Croxton, with his own proper hands, gave the said John Lingard, alias Barratt, five shillings legal money of England, which he took to pay the same John Lingard, alias Barratt, for his wages, and in consideration that the aforesaid Hugh Stringer be hung."

At the same court it is recorded, that "John Lingard appeared in his proper person, and on his sacred bodily oath gave evidence of the above, and that the execution took place on the 26 Sep., 3. . . (illegible) Eliz."

B. LL. V.

JUNE 5, 1878.

Original Documents.

[67] PRYNNE THE PURITAN AT CHESTER.

(Harl. MS., No. 2173, fo. 16, b.)

Here you have another selection from the MSS. of Randle Holme in the British Museum, not perhaps quite so much to the point as those which you have previously inserted, but still very interesting, as having an official authority, and expressing the loyal sentiments of the leading citizens of that day.

"The copy of the citty I're to the Archbushopp of Yorke and Comitioners about divers cittizens acoused about Prin, that sismaticall man who wrought much trouble in England, 1631.

"To the hon'ble Comitioners of his maiesty's Comition at Yorke, and to all others whom theis our I'res of request may conserne in any ways, Wee, the Maior and Aldermen of the City of Chester whose names are suspended, sent greetinge in our lord God everlastinge.

"Right hon'ble, whereas we are given to understand that you are informed by some, that divers cittizens of the said citty unknowne to us, and without our connoissance, of late by occasion of one Prin's beinge in the said citty of Chester sh'd enterayne him or conferr w'th him in privat, who was justly censured for a sismaticall p'son; and if any such be w'thin the said citty or the Jurisdiction thereof, wee wishe they may be knowne & certyfyate duly made of them unto you: but so it is, Right hon'ble, that your purseuants, by wronge information of others to them given in that behalfe, doe from day to day apprehend, under p'tence of delinquency, such who saw him only to observe the p'son of him that so offended as aforesayd, & others who saw him not at all, to the great disquiet & expence of many, & to the subversion & undowinge of some who are not able ether through Infirmitie of bodey to travell to Yorke, or poverty of estate to mantayne their integrity by reason of the great expence aforesayd.

"May it therfore please your honors to take the p'mises into your wise consideration, for the discovery of the sayd delinquency (if any such be), for the avoydinge of great expence, & for the quiet of them that are free. Our humble request to you is, that you would voutsafe to direct a comission to such comissioners heare in theis p'te, as you shall appoynt & think meete in this behalfe, for the due examination and certyfyate therof as the sayd comisioners shall take in this behalfe, & for this your clemency wee shall rest thankfull & redy to serve you."

The date of the "citty letter" is 1637, the same as that of Archbishop Neile's letter to the Corporation, and just succeeding that of Bishop Bridgeman about the Mayor's seat in the Cathedral. It seems that the the well-known visit of Prynne to Chester, when he was on his way to imprisonment in Carnarvon Castle, occurred in the early part of this year 1637. Of his reception on that occasion by Calvin Bruen, and by a party of ladies—one of whom, in whose house they met, was wife of Mr. Thomas Aldersey, who became Mayor in 1640—an account will be found in a lecture given on the subject in the "Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society," Parts 10 and 11. That account, derived from a fierce Puritan pamphlet of 1641, represents the strength of the Puritan feeling in Chester as much more general than it would seem to have been from this city's letter. It may be that the citizens were under some alarm in consequence of the severe

penalties which had been inflicted upon Bruen and others by the Consistory Court at York. But this letter represents the Puritan class to have been generally an obscure class, who kept their sentiments very much to themselves; so much so that it was difficult for the Pursuivants, sent by the Court to apprehend them, to discover the right persons. This agrees with the statement of Clarendon that the citizens of Chester were both sound in their faith and loyal in their allegiance.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

Notes.

[68] STOCKPORT PARISH REGISTERS.

The Registers of the old Church of St. Mary, at Stockport, contain many entries of high historic interest, as the two following specimens will sufficiently prove. The first is one of national importance, and runs as follows, on folio 98:—

"December, 1602. John the sonne of Henrye Bradshaw of Marple, was baptized the 10th."
A later hand has added the significant word, "traitor."

This entry records the baptism of the man who afterwards became Lord President of the Council, and who, sitting as Chief Judge on the Trial of King Charles I., was the first to set his hand to the Death Warrant of the King.

"June, 1660. Thomas Paget, Rector of the Parish Church of Stockport, was buried the 19th."

Thomas Paget was a minister of great eminence among the Puritans, and was a personal friend and family connection of John Milton, the poet, whose third wife, ultimately his widow, was buried at Nantwich.

W. C.

[69] THE MOW COP DIALECT.

I write from Mow Cop, in the parish of Odd Rode, which, as many of your readers will be aware, is situated at the extreme opposite end of the county from Chester.

It has occurred to me that some specimens of the Mow Cop dialect might prove not unacceptable to the Editor and readers of the CHESHIRE SHEAF. I therefore send the following instalment:—

FITCHES. Vetches. Oats and *fitches*.

"Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and *fitches*."

—Ezekiel, c. iv., pt. v., ix. See also Isaiah xxviii., 25, 27.

The Rev. John Booker, A.M., author of "A Scripture and Prayer Book Glossary," thus comments on the pronunciation of the word *fitches*:—"This word, wherever it occurs in the Bible and our old writers, is always thus written, and is still so pronounced by the common

people; but by the more intelligent classes it is usually written and pronounced *vetches*. This is an example of the integrity of our language being preserved by the common people, when the educated classes have clearly deviated from it."

PILL. PILLING. PILLED. Peel. Peeling. Peeled.

"And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and *pilled* white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods."—Genesis xxx., 37.

"And the whiteness *pilled* away from the corners of his eyes: and when he saw his son he fell upon his neck."—Tobit xi., 13.

STELE.—Handle. Staff. Example: A brush *stole* a rake *stole*.

"But that tale is not worth a rake-*stole*."

—Chaucer, C. T., The Wife of Bath's Tale.

"And in his hand an huge pole-axe did bear,
Whose *steale* was iron-studded, but not long,
With which he went to fight, to justify his wrong."

—Spenser, F. Q., v. xii.

WERN. Were. Ex.: "*Wern* they?" "*They wern*."

"Her name was Agapè, whose obildren *wern*
All three as one."—Spenser, F. Q., iv., ii.

"He sett the swords poynt till his breast,
The pummil untill a stone:

Throw the falseness of that lither ladd,
These three lives *werne* all gone."

—Percy's Reliques.

THIEL. Pierce. This word is much used amongst the colliers here, as descriptive of a certain class of their work. Thus, when a man has bored, pierced, or otherwise made an opening or connection between a new and old working, he is said to have *thierled*. Anglo-Saxon, *thirlian*, to make a hole.

"And of another thing they were as fain,
That of them allè was there none yslain,
All were they sore yhurt, and namely one,
That with a spear was *thierled* his breast-bone."

—Chaucer, C. T., The Knight's Tale.

"A dart we saw, how it did light
Right on her breast, and, therewithal, pale Death
Enthierling it, to rieve her of her breath."

—Sackville.

"As one whose inner parts had been *ythrill'd*
With point of steel that close his heartblood spill'd."

—Spenser, F. Q., v. iii.

STRAPPIN. Tall and fine-looking. A *strappin* young fellow.

"Wi' kindly weloome, Jenny brings him ben;
A *strappin* youth; he taks the mother's eye."

—Burns. The Cottar's Saturday Night.

CLUNTISH. Rough spoken. Uncivil. The word may perhaps be a corruption of *loutish* or *clownish*.

KEG MEG. Inferior butchers' meat is usually locally so designated.

RUMPUS. Row. Disturbance.

SCRATTLE. Dispute. Disturbance. Possibly a corruption of *scramble*.

SLUDGE. Mud. — WETCHERED. Wet-footed.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Queries.

[70] "DARNALL FOR DIM SIGHT."

Why is this Cheshire locality so stigmatised? Does it mean that its inhabitants cannot see so far into things as their neighbours? The late Colonel Leigh, in his paper on "Cheshire Proverbs" read some years ago before the Chester Archaeological Society, has omitted to tell us why or whether, or indeed to record this saying at all; and yet I have heard it more than once among my country cousins in Cheshire and the adjoining counties.

Crews.

A. NEWMAN.

[71] CHESHIRE CHEESE.

How long has this county been celebrated for its cheese? How comes it that the best quality of this article is seldom to be met with except in the metropolis? I am not a cheese gourmand myself, but am assured that the home county epicures seldom make acquaintance with the "genuine old Cheshire," except when it is brought all the way from London.

Birkenhead.

CLERICUS.

[72] THE BOTHAMS.

I should be much obliged if you could tell me in what part of the county *The Bothams* is situated? Many years ago there was a family of Hammersley, of the Bothams, county of Chester. I am most anxious to find their representatives.

Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

C. J. BAYLEY.

[73] CHESHIRE SALT MINES.

Will some one scientifically acquainted with the Cheshire salt district kindly explain up to what local geographical limits beyond the Three Wyches, salt has been traced by actual exploration? Does the Cheshire brine field extend in any direction beyond the county? When were the Cheshire mines first worked?

Crews.

S. E. L.

[74] THE ROFTS, NEAR GRESFORD.

As you travel by rail between Chester and Wrexham you see upon your left hand, soon after passing the little station at the Rosset, a bold projecting rock or mound, the exposed side of which seems to have been out away to afford room for the railway track. This hill stands in so commanding a position that it would hardly fail, one would think, to be a bone of contention between the hostile tribes of early times. Is there anything known of its bye-gones, ancient or mediæval, and as to the derivation of its name? Is there any indication on the spot of any fortress having occupied a "oign of vantage" there?

L. L.

[75] BARLOWE FAMILY OF CHESTER.

In the 14th and 15th centuries there was a family of some distinction bearing this name owning, and resident upon, an estate at Flookersbrook on the eastern outskirts of Chester. If they entered their pedigree at any of the early Heralds' Visitations, I should like to know a few particulars of the descent, and also what were the arms allowed to the family. Is the male line extinct?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[76] GOD'S CROFT.

[Nos. 12 AND 42.—MAY 1 AND 15.]

An interesting article on the Free Village Library, recently established by that genuine philanthropist, Mr. Joseph Mayer, F.S.A., at Bebington village, near Birkenhead, has recently been printed for circulation amongst friends. The opening paragraph is curiously illustrative of GOD'S CROFT, and runs as follows:—

"The famous Nixon, sitting on Storeton Hill, was asked by his friend, the miller, 'Where a man should find safety on the judgment day?' The seer replied, 'In God's Croft, betwixt Mersey and Dee.' This mystic utterance was long accepted in its literal meaning, and it gave solace to generations of honest yeomen who dwelt on the promontory upon which the prophet looked. In our day persons trained to the guessing of riddles have ingeniously found another sense to the awful words. By this interpretation they are brought to signify that betwixt Mersey and Condemnation—spelt with the initial 'D,' after the frank old fashion—sinful man may hope to be saved. This reading is now accepted; so dwellers in this part are deprived of the comforting assurance for the future which their forefathers held."

ED.

[77] SIR WATKIN AND THE SPARKLER.

[No. 32.—MAY 15.]

"A. B. F." will find some slight reference to Miss Jones in Colman's *Random Records*, published in 1830. The lady was stated to be then living, and the author (whose father on some occasions acted as stage manager at Wynnstay) says "the very pretty Miss Jones" was called *The Sparkler* "from the brilliancy of her eyes."

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[78] THE "AP'S" AND "VERCHS" OF WELSH PEDIGREES.

[No. 33.—MAY 14.]

I cannot answer "PURSUIVANT" more readily than by quoting the following passage from Miss Jane Williams' very meritorious work:—

"The change from the genealogical style of designation in Wales to fixed and hereditary surnames is not even now, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, complete.

It began in single instances with Welshmen who had become familiar with England and English habits; it was promoted by the accession of Henry VII. to the throne; but, even among those of the highest rank, it did not become general until Rowland Lee, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, Lord President of Wales and the Marches, when calling over the panel of a jury one day became weary of the repetition of the *ab*, and directed that the 'ancient worshipful gentleman,' Thomas *ab* William *ab* Thomas *ab* Richard *ab* Howell *ab* Jefan Fychan, &c., of Mostyn, and the rest of the jury, should henceforth severally assume as a surname either their last genealogical name, or that of their residence."

(*History of Wales*, by Jane Williams, pp. 483, 484.) — Bishop Lee died January 24th, 1543 (ib. p. 485). His arbitrary proceeding in this matter is also related by Mr. Pennant (*Tours in Wales*, ed. 1810, vol. 1, p. 17); and in my opinion it does not deserve the praise which "PURSUIVANT" seems prepared to give it.

W. T. P.

Rowland Lee, son of William Lee, of Morpeth, esquire, Treasurer of Berwick, was Chancellor and Bishop of the Diocese of Lichfield which see was commonly called Chester. Stephen Vaughan, writing to Cromwell, Earl of Essex, respecting Lee's elevation to the mitre, speaks of him in anything but laudatory terms. He says "You have lately holpen an erthely beste, a molle, and an enemy to all godly lernynge, into th' offyce of his dampnacion,—a papiste, an Idolater, and a fleshely preste, unto a Busshop of Chester." In 1535, he became Lord President of Wales, and it was he who reduced that principality to order, divided it into counties, and incorporated it with England. He it was, according to Cooper's *Athena Cantabrigienses*, who first abridged the names of the Welsh gentry, when, wearied with the numberless *aps* in their pedigrees and titles, he ordered the last named of each only to be retained; and thus arose the infinity of Christian-Sur-names with which the whole of Wales, and parts of England, are still infested. Mr. J. A. Froude styles him, in his *History of England*, Vol. III., pp. 45—"the last survivor of the old martial prelates, fitter for harness than for bishop's robes, for a court of justice than a court of theology. More at home at the head of his troopers, chasing cattle-stealers in the gorges of Llangollen, than hunting heretics to the stake, or chasing formulas in the arduous defiles of controversy." There are three volumes full of his letters in the State Paper Office: some of the more local ones would be worth inserting in the *SHEAF*. He seems to have been almost perpetually operating on either side the frontier line from Chester to the mouth of the Wye. He died 24th Jan'y, 1542-3, at Shrewsbury, and was buried under a handsome tomb in St. Chad's Church, of which his brother George was Dean.

G. T.

Pennant, in his *Tours in Wales*, Vol. I., p. 12, informs us that Bishop Rowland Lee, in the reign of Henry VIII., who sat in a Welsh cause, became so

tired of hearing the quantity of "aps" on the jury that he directed "that the panel should assume their last name or that of their residence." Thus, "Thomas ap Richard ap Howel ap Jevan Vyohan," and Piers, his brother, became known as "Mostyn," of Mostyn and Talaore respectively: whereupon soon the change became general, "no doubt to the great mortification of many an ancient line."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[79] **MOCK BEGGAR'S HALL.**

[No. 63.—MAY 29.]

The Mook Beggar Hall Estate, now called Leasowe Castle, was purchased from the Egertons by the widow of Lewis Boode, Esq., whose only daughter and heiress married the late Sir Edward Cust, Bart., in 1821.

The house is turreted and handsomely built, and realizes the stories we have heard of a "Palace in a wilderness," for a more wild and desolate tract of land than the Leasowes (about 220 acres, facing the Irish Sea) is rarely to be met with. There is a tradition, that at one period, "a man might go from tree top to tree top from the Meolse to Birkenhead." The estate is in the parish of Wallasey. There were horse races on the Leasowe as early as 1605, and as late as the year 1750. The celebrated James Duke of Monmouth ran and rode his own horse here in 1683, won the plate, and presented it to the young daughter of the Mayor of Chester, to whom he had stood sponsor the day before.

Newton.

H.

[As it is just possible that this piece of plate may be still existing in one of the family plate chests of Cheshire, we should be glad to hear of its whereabouts in the columns of the CHESHIRE SHEAF.—EDITOR.]

[80] **LANCASHIRE WITHIN CHESHIRE.**

[No. 36.—MAY 15.]

I cannot quite recollect the place where it occurs, but I know that at a certain point between Warrington and Stockport there was until quite of late years a narrow loop of the River Mersey, on the Cheshire bank of which a manufactory was erected. The owner became in due time the purchaser of the land on the opposite or Lancashire side; and thereupon cut a straight canal through the narrow neck for the river's freer progress, and straightway filled up the older water-way, which is now included within the limits of his Cheshire establishment. Of course this loop, filled up and appropriated by this little bit of marine engineering, still belongs in law to Lancashire, though it now stands on the Cheshire side the river; and I presume the owner exercises his franchise for both shires, as occasion requires.

AN OLD OVERSEER.

JUNE 12, 1878.

Original Documents.

[81] **CHESTER STREETS AT NIGHT IN 1503.**

Probably few of us have ever reflected what must have been the condition of our Chester Streets and Rows, when the entire responsibility of lighting the city at night was left to private rather than to public hands. Some of them of necessity must have been in profound darkness; and even those that were treated to such nominal illumination as horn lanterns could afford can hardly have been in a much better condition. The following extract, taken from the MS. Orders of Assembly of the Corporation of Chester, vol. i, fo. 66, in the mayoralty of Richard Goodman, 1503, will enable us to guess what Chester Streets at night must have resembled now near four hundred years ago:—

"A order that all maiors, Sheriffs, Innkeepers an all that sell drinke, shall hange at their doores **LAWNTERNS** from Alsainte to Candlemas, on payne of xijd., and Taverns and Alehowses to shut in at ix of ye cloock, on payne of vjs. viijd.

"It is ordered By mayester mayre and his brethren that eu'y man that hath byne mayre or sheriff of the Citie of Chester, And also all Inkepers, as well they that have sygne as the that have no sygne, shall have hanging at ther dores A Lantorne wyth a candyll bryning in it every nyghte, from that it be first nyght unto the oure of viij of the cloocke, That is to wyt, from the feste of all Sayntes unto the feste of the puryfycacoon of oure Ladye then Next foloyng yerly, upon the Payne of everye man Doing the contrarye, xijd."

"Also it is orderdy by the saide mayre and his brethren, that ev'y wyne Tau'ne, and also Sellar and ale bower, shall be shut in at ix of the cloock, upon the payne of ev'y p'son doing the contrary, vjs. viijd."

It will be seen that even this feeble effort at lighting did not last through the night, but only until 8 o'clock, one hour before the taverns and "ale-bowers" had to be closed. The city would appear to have been left in almost total darkness from that time to daylight.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[82] **SIR PETER DENIS, BART.**

Exactly a century ago this day, viz. : June 12, 1778, died **SIR PETER DENIS**, a gallant and distinguished British sailor, whose brilliant career deserves a forward place in the **CHESHIRE SHEAF**. This notice is the more due, seeing that his native county has never apparently been aware of his son-ship, and even Mr. Salisbury makes no mention of him in his "Border County Worthies."

One of several sons of the Rev. Jacob Denis, by Margaret Leach his wife, whom he married at St Oswald's, Chester, on May 9, 1699, PETER DENIS was born in that city and baptized at Chester Cathedral on April 13, 1712. He was educated at The King's School of the old city, where his father was for eight years Second Master, and of which two of his brothers were Foundation Scholars.

Choosing the navy for his profession, after the usual probation he served as Lieutenant with Admiral Anson in his Voyage round the World, in 1740, distinguishing himself in frequent actions against the Spaniards in the South Seas. Made a Post Captain in 1744, and being then in command of his old ship, the *Centurion*, he fired the first broadside in the famous battle of Cape Finisterre, and had the honour to bring home the Admiral's despatches, announcing that victory. In 1750, having married Miss Pappet, a London heiress, he purchased a seat in Kent, afterwards known as Hill Park, and the residence of Lord Hillsborough. Returned to Parliament in 1754, for Heydon, in Yorkshire, and while holding that seat, Captain Denis—or Dennis; for the name is found variously spelt in public documents—was appointed to the *Medway*, and in that capacity in 1757 formed one of the court-martial that tried and condemned Admiral Byng.

Among other important exploits in his career, he led the attack at Belle Isle, and was enthusiastically told by Sir Edward Hawke, in the presence of his brother officers, that "he had behaved like an angel." In 1761 he was selected by King George to bring over his royal consort, Queen Charlotte, to this country; and in 1767 was created a baronet. After passing through various grades in the ladder of promotion, and performing many distinguished acts of valour, he was made commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean squadron in 1771, and died a vice-admiral on June 12, 1778, as above stated, exactly a hundred years ago.

T. HUGHES.

[83] PARKGATE IN 1802.

On looking over an old newspaper called the *Daily Advertiser and Oracle*, dated London, Sept. 29, 1802, I met with the following paragraph:—

"Among the Sea Dippers at PARKGATE, near Liverpool, were the Hon. Colonel Crewe, Sir Boyle and Lady Roche, Sir Richard and Miss Hills, Colonel and Miss Jepsen, Lieutenant-Colonel Colston, Major Henchman, Capt. Chandless, Mr. Trenob, Mr. Benson, the Hon. Mrs. Foley, and the beautiful Miss Currie, of Chester."

This may be fairly taken as evidence of the popularity of Parkgate as a fashionable place of resort in 1802. Belonging to the locality myself, and being interested in its history, I read the paragraph with pleasure; and its comparison with the place of the present day may interest some of your readers.

GEORGE GLEAVE.

Old Trafford, Manchester.

[84] A CHESTER DAME OF LONG AGO.

Some fifty years ago there resided in Chester an old lady named McDaniels. She was at that time more than 90 years of age. Naturally possessed as she was of superior talents, combined with a retentive memory, it was a rare treat to hear her converse upon the events which had occurred during her past life, and as in her younger days she had come in social contact with old people then living, her reminiscences went back to a century and a half.

She being most hospitable, many of the officers belonging to the Militia, stationed in Chester during the eventful years preceding the Battle of Waterloo, from time to time met at her house, and enjoyed her social converse. She was a most determined and dauntless woman, and often kept down the wild and rampant spirits of some of the young Militia heroes with an iron hand.

A sample of her fearless spirit was manifested while attending a review in London. Happening to be standing near the Duke of York, and hearing him use fearfully blasphemous words because his horse would not stand still, she thus addressed his Royal Highness:—"I am ashamed to hear the son of his Majesty use such impious language!" The Duke quickly turned round, looked at her abashed for a moment, then rode silently away.

As her parents had kept the Yacht Inn, in Watergate-street, she remembered several circumstances connected with the blowing up of the Puppet Show in 1772. She said that after the explosion men were afraid to enter the place for fear there might still be more powder to explode; but a man named Joseph Hand, hearing the shrieks and groans of the wounded and dying, bravely cried, "What is my life more than that of another man?" and at once leaped into the cellar; when others, inspired by his courage, followed, and assisted to get the sufferers out. The grief and wailing of the friends of the deceased and wounded were, she said, most heartrending. One tradesman of the city became almost bereft of reason, when informed of the death of a son and daughter by the explosion.

Mrs. McDaniels was on intimate terms both with Whitfield and Wesley. The latter often dined at her house, when in Chester; on which occasions, during the summer, he used to preach to a goodly congregation in the open air, at St. Martin's Ash, at 5 o'clock in the Morning.—At that time Mr. Wesley was also a welcome guest of Mr. Sellers, principal of a highly famed Boy's School in Queen Street. He was succeeded by Mr. Stolterforth, and afterwards by Mr. Wood.—If the career of some of the boys educated in this School were traced, there would doubtless be found many shining characters.

After Mr. Wesley's death, a defection of Members arose (owing to the exclusiveness of the Wesleyan Conference) under the leadership of Alexander Kilham;

they were hence called "Kilhamites," but afterwards "The New Connexion." They erected a Chapel in Trinity Street, among the leading supporters of which was Mrs. McDaniels.—The late Rev. Thos. Bradford, formerly of St. Bridget's Church, and author of the Poems entitled "The Martyr Student," was baptised in this Chapel; and was incidentally the means of preventing the original Baptismal Register being destroyed.

Queen-street.

B. OWEN.

Queries.

[85] ARMS OF THE DEANERY OF CHESTER.

I have an engraving dated 1719, called "THE ARMS OF THE DEANERIES," in which those of Chester are represented as follows. The scene is the interior of a room, in one corner of which the Virgin Mary is depicted in the attitude of devotion before a pedestal, on which lies an open book; while the angel Gabriel (with a short robe and minus his wings) stands in the centre of the room holding in his hands a scroll on which are the words "Ave Maria."

I shall be glad to hear from your correspondents whether the above are really the "arms" of our Deanery, and to receive any further information respecting the same.

Ash Grove.

WM. E. BROWN.

[86] EGERTON, A CHESHIRE NAME.

Can you inform me whether there is any recognized derivation of the surname "EGERTON"? Though the name is generally associated with Cheshire, 'Egerton' is a parish also in the heart of Kent.

Has Edgar-ton or town ever been suggested? In your paragraph No. 54 of the 'SHEAF' you mention 'Edgar's Field, Handbridge'—and if it was the Saxon King who gave his name to the field, why may he not *à fortiori* have done so to a larger place—and thence to persons?

I am not an archæologist, as my question will very probably have proved, but if you think the enquiry worth the space, I shall be glad if you will insert it.

Burwash Rectory, Hawkhurst.

J. O. E.

[87] BOYDELL FAMILY.

I am anxious to corroborate or otherwise the statement from memory of one of my great-aunts, recently deceased. It was a tradition of her early youth that an ancestor of hers and mine had been in some way concerned with the great legal contest, known in history as the "Scrope and Grosvener Controversy," in the reign of Richard II., five hundred years ago. If it be possible,

from any of the Records preserved at Chester or elsewhere, and to which some correspondent of yours may have access, to set me right on this point, the service will be appreciated.

Jersey.

A. BOIDLE.

[88] NUMBER OF HOUSES IN CHESTER IN 1848.

I have seen it stated that, according to a survey taken in 1848, there were 6,319 houses in Chester—2,284 being above £7 annual value, 4,085 under that rental. It would be interesting to know how we stand in this respect in the year 1878, and I should be glad if some of your correspondents would give us this information. This being a purely local matter some official connected with the Corporation might be able to give it.

Glan Aber.

E. G. S.

[89] TILSTON AND TILSTONE, CHESHIRE.

There are two townships in our county, not very near to each other,—one called TILSTON and the other TILSTONE. Can any reason for this, other than our early ancestors' caprice or whim, be given or even suggested? We give names to our lands and homes in the present day, irrespective of philology, topography, or any other rational consideration. For instance, if we buy an acre or two of land, and build a villa upon it, we call it perhaps the Manor House, where there never was a manor,—Lime Grove, where neither limes nor groves were ever seen,—The Quillets, where never a furrow had been turned for centuries, &c., &c. But what about Tilston and Tilstone, which date back far beyond the Roman Conquest? I suspect these are in quite a different category.

T. T.

[90] STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE.

Many years ago, while passing through Chester to Ireland, I stayed a night at that comfortable hostelry, the White Lion Hotel. From my bedroom window, next morning, I saw a STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE under a lofty niche on the (I think) south front of the Town Hall. The other day when in Chester I found that both statue and town-hall, and even my old hotel, had vanished: so, having ascertained the existence of the CHESHIRE SHEAF, and indeed seen one or two of the earlier numbers, I write to enquire whether the Statue is still in being, and whether it is known who was the sculptor? He was manifestly, to my mind, a man of considerable ability; and something ought surely to be known of him.

Youghal.

C. O'DONNELL.

[91] THE HUNDRED OF CALDY.

There was once a Cheshire Hundred bearing this name, but I fail to find it marked on any of the county maps, old or young. Who will expound unto me this riddle?

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[92] ROSEMARY AT FUNERALS.

[No. 22.—May 8.]

The use of rosemary in connection with the dead, partly, it may be, as a disinfectant, partly as a farewell offering at the tomb, is a practice so old that its origin is probably lost in an atmosphere of fable. It was evidently familiar to Shakespeare, who makes Friar Laurence say to Capulet, when dwelling upon Juliet's death:—

"Dry up your tears, and stick your rosemary
On this fair corse; and, as the custom is,
In all her best array bear her to church."

When a mere child I had a sort of orase for attending funerals, and remember hundreds of cases where the rosemary formed part of the mourners panoply; indeed, among the middle and humbler classes it was altogether the exception not to see it so employed.

In the will of Mr. Dudley Garencieres, a prebendary of Chester, a copy of which I myself made some years ago from the original record, proved June 1st, 1708, the reverend testator orders that his body be buried in the Cathedral. "The time," he says, "I would have to be that of four a clock Prayers, and the Place, among my predecessors the Prebendaries. I would have nothing given at my funeral, except Rosemary to the Company, and gloves and Scarfs to the Dean and five Prebendaries, or such as supply in their absence."

Again, in the quaint will of an old maiden lady of Chester, Miss Hellena Salmon, dated 26 March, 1727, and proved Nov. 24, 1736, she wishes "all her intimate friends and acquaintances to be invited to the funeral, and none forgotten, men or women, and each of them to have a pare of the best Lame Glowfs (lamb gloves), a Sprig of Rosemary, and a Glass of Sack."

T. HUGHES.

[98] SWEET WATER.

[No. 48.—May 22.]

In 1779, Dr. Matthew Dobson, F.R.S., of Liverpool, published "A Medical Commentary on Fixed Air," which was printed for him by John Monk, of Chester. In that volume, at p. 155, Dr. Haygarth, of Chester, thus refers to the "sweet water" about which J. S. H. enquires:—

"At Chester the very lowest class of the people drink a kind of fermented liquor. At our sugar-houses, the molds in which the sugar is refined are immersed in water, to dissolve what adheres to them after the loaf is taken out. The water, having served this purpose for a week, becomes impregnated with sugar, and is sold under the denomination of *sweet water*, at the rate of six gallons for a penny; so that the very poorest may purchase it. This liquor, fermented with yeast, is drunk as small beer; and 844 gallons are consumed every week. It is not so pleasant, however, but that many prefer milk or even water."

G. T.

[94] SALT PANS FOUND AT NORTHWICH.

[No. 50.—May 22.]

The two pans, which were preserved, were given up by the River Weaver Trustees to the Warrington Museum, where they are, no doubt, now. It was understood at the time that they were to be returned whenever required.

B. LL. V.

[95] WHITEWASH IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.

[No. 52.—May 22.]

In answer to this enquiry—on the restoration of Middlewich Church, in 1858, many fragments of Norman sculpture were found, which had been used upon various parts of the building—two pillars being used entire—clearly shewing that there had been a pre-existing Norman church. Under one of the above pillars sections of another pillar had been used for the foundation; the outer surface of these was covered with coats of whitewash. I made a note of this at the time.

There are several interesting fragments of Norman work now preserved in the vestry—billet mould, wolves heads, &c.—which bear unmistakeable traces of whitewash. The heads have been picked out with some red colouring.

B. LL. V.

[96] POLLUTION OF THE RIVER DEE.

[No. 64.—MAY 29.]

In the last number of the CHESHIRE SHEAF there appeared a note on this subject, showing that at so early a date as 1508 it was found necessary to appoint a court to enquire into it. The writer, in the course of his observations, asks for information about the commissioners who are mentioned as dealing with this grievance.

With regard to the first of them, Robert Frost, Clk., Chancellor to Prince Henry, son of Henry VII., the following data can be given:—He was the son of Thomas Frost, of Beverley, York, whose will bears the date of 20th October, 1469. He became Rector of Thornhill, in that county, in which church the arms of the family (a chevron gules between three trefoils slipped azure) are mentioned as existing in 1584 by Foster, in his *Visitation of Yorkshire*: afterwards he was made Canon of Bole, Archdeacon of Winchester and Stowe, and Chancellor to the King's eldest son, in which capacity he is mentioned in Ormerod as holding this court at Chester.

Thomas Frost, the father, had three other sons, John, William, and Walter, the latter of whom was probably the eldest, and was "Sewer" (Assayer or taster of the viands at the table) to Henry VIII. Walter Frost married Ann, daughter of Richard Caley, and died on the 20th March, 1528-9, being buried in the church of Westham, Essex. In his will he refers to "Maister the Archdeacon of Essex, my Brother." He was possessed of the manors of Newland, Walton, and

Featherstone, together with lands in Aikton, Hekk, Hensall, Arkesey, Iverthorpe, Pollington, and Beverley, in the County of York. His only daughter married Jocelyn Peroy, son of the Earl of Northumberland.

The Chancellor and his brothers were great-great-grandsons of Walter Frost, who, being Mayor of Hull in 1872, was appointed commissioner to collect ships for the passage of the King and his army to France.

St John's House.

F. A. F.

JUNE 19, 1878.

Original Documents.

[97] ST. THOMAS' COURT, CHESTER.

For centuries prior to the Reformation the Abbots of St. Werburgh, and since that time the Dean and Chapter, regularly kept their half-yearly Court for their MANOR OF ST. THOMAS, in the ancient refectory of the Abbey. The Chapter only discontinued the custom some 30 years ago. The Cathedral tenants were the jurors, and the Chapter Clerk usually acted as seneschal of the courts.

As an example of the work done on those occasions, the following, taken from the records of this court, held October 25, 1693, will not be without local interest:—

"ST. THOMAS.—View of Frankpledge "cum curia," of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ and blessed Mary the Virgin, held for the manor aforesaid, on Wednesday, to wit, the 25th day of October, 1693, before Robert Ffoulkes, gent., seneschal there.

"Wee the Grand Jury, &c., doe present at the Court now held, as followeth,—

"We p'sent all those that owe suit and service to this Court, and have not appeared this day, having had Lawfull warning, and amerce them in twelve pence a peece.

"We present Mrs. Swift, widdow, for not keeping the Abbey Court Well in repaire, and do amerce her in the sum of ten shillings.

"We present Will. Nicoe for not rebuilding the wall between him and Thomas Lloyd [in God's-stall Lane], and do Amerce him in thirty shillings.

"We present the Townshipp of Trafford for not repairing the Moore-lane Cawsey, and doe Amerce it in the sum of three shillings foure pence betwixt and May next.

"And also for not repairing a Platt leading to the Hall, and doe amerce it in the sum of 12d. by the same time.

"We present Richard Cartwright, Constable, and Nathaniel Page, Burleyman, for Bridge Trafford.

"Wee present the Baileife of the Court for not giving Bridge Trafford sufficient notice for the appearance at this Court, the sum of 1s.

"We present Richard Thomason, for not removing his midding and cleansing his watercourse in the Northgate-street, and doe Amerce him in the sum of 3s. 4d., betwixt and Christmas next, if the said midding be not removed and the watercourse cleansed before this day three weeks, w'ch is a great Annoiance of William Rensford.

"We present the Deane and Chapter for not repairing the Court-house; and also for a Dunghill before the Regeester office, and we do Amerce them in 13s. 4d.

"We present Mrs. Swift, Widdow, for suffering p'te of her house in the Abbey Court, w'ch she holds from the Deane and Chapter, to goe to Ruine and decay; and we order her to repaire the same before the next Court Leet to be held for this Manner, upon paine of Six pound."

[From another Roll dated April, 1695, we glean the following:—

"We p'sent the Deane and Chapter for not keeping the Stocks in repaire, and amerce them in one shilling.

"We p'sent John Bentley and Samuel Rimmer for not repairing the Highway in the Windy mill Lane, to the Comon nusance, and amerce them in five shillings.

"Wee order that Mrs. Elizabeth Swift doe keep the Comon Well in the Abbey Court duely inclosed, to p'vent the danger of p'sons being drowned or hurt in the s'd Well, upon paine of Twenty Shillings."

One charm of these entries is the admirable impartiality shewn by the Jury. Not only do the simple Township-men of Trafford get pounced upon for not 'mending their ways,' and the poor 'Baileife' of the Court get mulcted for neglect, but even still higher game falls to get off scot free. Thus we see Mrs. Swift, the 'bruar's wife' of that day,—and the representative of those who upon the same spot were such a scandal and eyesore to Bishop Bridgeman and the Archbishop [see No. 2 of the SHEAF],—threatened and fined for not performing the covenants of her lease: the Dean and Chapter also, the lords paramount of the Court, come in for their due share both of blame and amerciaiment.

One of these quaint entries shews that the Chapter had set up Stocks of their own to punish the refractory within their domain. Another entry, not included in the list, shews also that they had a Cuck-stool for ducking any scolds who, within their bailiwick of Boughton, made too free with their tongues. Doubtless many other curious entries are contained in these tell-tale Court Rolls, but enough has for the present been said.

T. HUGHES.

[98] CHESHIRE AND DISARTH CASTLES.

In the collection of Royal Letters preserved in the Public Record Office, London, is the following document, numbered 437. The original is in Latin and without date, but from internal evidence may be placed at about the year 1260 (44th Henry III.). It is curious as shewing that prior to that date,—I suppose indeed throughout the rule of the Norman Earls,—there had been no wall of stone erected round the CASTLE of CHESTER! A wood paling seems to have satisfied the requirements of the fortress; though it must not be forgotten that, as the Castle was entirely within the Walls of the City, no enemy could reach the earl's camp until the city ramparts had first been forced,—a contingency not likely to happen on a sudden in those wary times. DISARTH CASTLE, in the adjoining county of Flint, was, it is clear from this document, protected by an outer wall of stone; for the king's order in that case is only to re-edify the wall wherever it chanced to be necessary.

"Henry, by the grace of God, King of England, &c., &c. To his beloved and faithful J. de Grey, his Justiciary of Chester.

"We command you that you cause to be removed the wooden fence of the bailey around our Castle of Chester, and that you cause the said bailey to be enclosed with a stone wall. And that in like manner you re-edify the bailey around our Castle of Dissard, wherever it may be necessary. And the sums that you shall expend on the same, being certified by the view and testimony of lawful men, shall be allowed to you at our Exchequer."

The document was found at the Record Office in 1868; and a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, for May of that year, falls into the error of supposing that it was the City Walls of old Chester that were for the first time, in 1260, constructed of stone. The record however speaks for itself:—"Mandamus quod ballium circa castrum nostrum Cestrie, quod clausum fuit palo, amoto palo illo, claudi faciatis calce et petra." Besides, portions of the Roman Walls are, as everybody knows, still standing, and form an integral part of the mediæval ramparts. DISARTH CASTLE was, in those days, a military out-post of Chester, and its garrison would almost as surely be mostly Cheshire men.

T. T.

Notes.

[99] CHESHIRE PROVERBS.

The late Col. Egerton Leigh, whose love for the old County Palatine and its bygones was evinced through a long life in a multiplicity of ways, read before the Chester Archaeological Society, in 1856, an amusing

Paper on CHESHIRE PROVERBS. The full text of this Paper, accompanied by numerous illustrations, afterwards appeared in the published *Journal* of the Society. As possibly, in some future generation, a supplement may be attempted to Col. Leigh's somewhat exhaustive list, the CHESHIRE SHEAF would seem meanwhile to be a fitting repository for any fugitive local Proverbs not included in his series.

Here is one which may be fairly claimed for Cheshire, seeing that it is included in no printed list of English Proverbs with which I am acquainted. It occurs in Randle Holme's quaint *Academy of Armourie*, a work which has already been, and will no doubt often again be, quoted from in the SHEAF. Writing of the implements used in the currier's trade, and their connection with Heraldry, he informs us that it was a proverbial saying among the local craft,—"*Score thrice before you out once!*" This Proverb inculcates both caution and economy,—"*Don't cut your leather until you have quite satisfied your mind that you have selected the right place, or you may quite likely have to repeat your labour and waste part of the skin.*" In other words, it is a stronger version of "*Look before you leap!*"

G. T.

[100] ST. JOHN'S CHURCH ORGAN, CHESTER.

Early in the present century the Lay Rector of St. John's Church was a female named Dolly Adams, deriving from the Rev. Lawrence Adams, Vicar, 1742-77. She afterwards sold her right to Lord Grosvenor, whereby the present Duke of Westminster became the Lay Rector. At that time the Rev. W. Richardson was the Vicar, who would never allow an organ to be erected in the church; but on his decease it was found he had left several hundred pounds for the purchase of an organ, with which sum the present fine instrument, which was first used in London at the coronation of Queen Victoria, was purchased.

Chester.

R. OWEN.

Queries.

[101] OFFERINGS AT FUNERALS.

Probably the custom of collecting offerings at funerals from the mourners and their friends was at one time common enough throughout Cheshire, but we have personally never met with an instance within the limits of the shire. Some twenty years ago we attended a funeral at Wrexham, and were astonished, at a certain point in the service within the mortuary chapel, to hear the old clerk suddenly start off a hymn, which asserted grotesquely to our mind with the gravity of the occasion. The clerk stood the while before an openly exposed alms dish, up to which the mourners and congregation one by one filed and dropped in a coin,

the official's chant ceasing as soon as the money shower began to fail. If a similar practice obtains in any of the village churches of Cheshire, some account of them from time to time in this column would not be unwelcome.

EDITOR.

[102] THE MSS. OF THE REV. JOHN STONES.

The materials collected by Dr. Gower for his contemplated "History of Cheshire" are preserved in the British Museum; and in them he refers to one folio and two thick 4to volumes in manuscript, the record of the collections of the Rev. John Stones, rector of Coddington, Cheshire, about 1699, a noted antiquary and collector. He says these volumes were contained in the Dean and Chapter Library at Chester. As I am informed they are not there now, can any of your readers say whether they still exist, and if so, whether they could be referred to for historical purposes?

Stockport.

H. HEGINBOTHAM.

[103] ANCIENT STONE AT GRESFORD.

On walking from Wrexham to the Rossett a few weeks ago (which is, by the bye, a very pleasant walk), I observed at the junction of the road leading to Gresford under a tree, a large ANCIENT STONE, with a hole at the top about 8 inches deep, apparently to hold water in. Could you, or any of your correspondents, inform me why the stone in question is placed in that spot, and what purpose it has served?

A RESIDENT IN THE ROWS.

[104] THE BOSTOCKS OF CHESHIRE.

I shall be glad if you can find room for the following Query:—JOHN BOSTOCK, who was Abbot of St. Albans in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. has a pedigree in the British Museum, Harl: MS., No. 189, which runs in effect as follows:—"His grandfather is simply given as a Bostock from the county of Cheshire, who married, and had issue Hugo Bostock, of Wheathampstead in the county of Hertford, who married Margaret, daughter and heir of Thomas Mackeny, Lord of the Manor of Mackeny Ead, in the county of Hertford. Their son was John Bostock, surnamed Wheathampstead, Lord Abbot of St. Albans,—so elected for the first time in 1420: he resigned in 1440, and was re-elected in 1451." I am desirous of finding which branch of the family of Bostock this Abbot was descended from, and would be glad of any information on the subject.

Brixton.

R. C. BOSTOCK.

Replies.

[105] RIVER UNDER BEESTON CASTLE.

[No. 35.—May 15.]

In answer to the above inquiry, the river Gowy runs at the foot of the hill on which my house and glebe

stand. I am well able to trace its course. It comes at one point within half a mile of Beeston Castle, but the character of the ground utterly forbids the supposition that it could ever have run under the Castle hill. It would be rather a steep run up hill all the way from the brook. The caves, moreover, run from the Castle instead of towards it. They are sand diggers' caves, and I never heard of any others besides them. We must therefore conclude that the story was a tale of wonder just suited to a child.

Bunbury Vicarage.

WM. LOWE.

[106] HORSLEY HALL, NEAR GRESFORD.

[No. 51.—MAY 22.]

I am anxious to destroy a legend which I seem to have created. Many years ago I was told that a woman had been once murdered at Horsley, and I wrote some verses, which were published in "Sharpe's London Magazine," about 1845 or 1846. These verses appeared with the title of "THE STORY OF HORSLEY HALL," and were reprinted by Colonel Egerton Leigh, in his book of *Cheshire Ballads and Legends*. They describe the jealousy of a lady, who kills her waiting-maid, and retires to repent in a foreign convent; the murdered girl is buried in the quiet churchyard of Gresford, where "an arched stone raised high" marks her resting place; and the fate of the unworthy husband is thus related in the concluding stanza:—

When Sir Thomas died early, the last of his race,
No kinsman attended his bones to their place;
But buried by strangers, unhonoured, unwept,
With his fathers, at Birkenhead Abbey, he slept.

I wish that I had not connected my imaginary tale with either Horsley Hall or the Powell family. Traditions spring up readily, and a remarkable old tombstone with an illegible inscription has been pointed out to me by the sexton as being that of a woman who was "killed unfairly" at Horsley; though I found on questioning him that his information was derived at second or third hand from my verses in the Magazine.

I have taken some pains to investigate the history of the Powells. I find that Sir Thomas Powell, who seems to have been a most respectable gentleman, succeeded his grandfather, the first baronet, about the year 1640. He was Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1657, and churchwarden of Gresford ten years later. His second wife, Lady Jane Powell, was buried on the 25th of February, 1685. He survived all his male descendants, and died in September, 1706, when the baronetcy became extinct. On the 28th of that month he was buried at Gresford.

His eldest son, Thomas Powell, was Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1684, and was buried at Gresford in April, 1689. He, like Sir Thomas, was twice married, and his two wives, Anne, the widow of Timothy Middleton, and Winifrede, whose maiden name I am not certain of, were also buried there.

There are many entries in the Gresford Registers, from 1650 to 1706, relating to the Powell Family, and it is abundantly clear that their burying place was at Gresford, and not at Birkenhead.

The estate at that place, long enjoyed by the Powells, was acquired by the marriage of Thomas, grandfather of the first Baronet, with Alice, daughter and coheirress of Ralph Worseley, of Chester, to whom Birkenhead Priory on its dissolution was granted by Henry VIII. (Ormerod's *Cheshire*, Vol. II.) Shortly after the death of Sir Thomas Powell it was purchased by John Cleveland, a Mayor of Liverpool and Member for the Borough, whose daughter Alice became the wife of Francis Price, of Bryn-y-pys (*ibid*). The late Mr. F. B. Price, the well-known owner of this very valuable property, was descended from Alice Cleveland.

Sir Thomas Powell's descendants in the female line still continue. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Thomas Eyton, of Trimley, and the Wynne-Eyttons, the present family of Leeswood, are descended from her. His eldest son appears to have left one or more daughters, who succeeded to the Estates and alienated them; and the antient name of Powell of Horsley, after 170 years, is almost if not quite forgotten.

As this long statement is something like a confession, it is right that I should add my name to it.

WM. TREVOR PARKINS.

Gresford, June 8th, 1878.

[107] "THE ARCH REBEL FOUND."

[No. 62.—MAY 29]

I have hoped that your correspondent "E. G. S." would have answered this query, for there is no one more capable of doing so; but as he has not, allow me just to say that in Sir John Bickerton Williams' *Memoirs of Matthew Henry* (p. 222), there is a reference to the subject; in which we are told that Mr. Henry commenced his career of authorship in 1689-90 (anonymously) with a little book of 34 pages, entitled "A Brief Enquiry into the True Nature of Schism." His biographer states that the tract was "written with exemplary candour, and its tendency, by rectifying mistakes and destroying prejudices, was good." Unexceptionable, however, as was "the spirit in which the pamphlet was written" it called forth from "T. W., a citizen of Chester, singular and illiberal animadversions." Mr. Henry did not reply, but his work was vindicated by Mr. Tong, at whose instance it had been originally published. This gave rise to further attacks and defences, in the course of which "T. W." insinuated that Matthew Henry would have made a better attorney's clerk than theologian! "This was not all," adds the biographer, "as if, either to amuse, or awe by a momentary exhibition of himself, the concealed T. W. told the world, that he was 'put to a mercer.'"

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[108]

MOCK BEGGAR HALL.

[Nos. 63 AND 79.—MAY 29 AND JUNE 5.]

Leasowe Castle, situated on the N.W. coast of the Hundred of Wirral, was erected in 1593, and for some time afterwards was known as the New Hall; "but," according to Lysons (*Cheshire*, p. 807), "of late years, from the circumstance of its having been long uninhabited, usually Mock Beggar Hall." That it was a nickname only is most probable, as Mortimer (*History of Wirral*, p. 294) mentions that "it does not occur in any of the title deeds" relating to the mansion. His explanation of its origin is scarcely as satisfactory as the one just quoted from Lysons' work; affirming it to be "a very ancient sailor's nickname for a large lone house,—or it may have been derived from the original appellation of the coast, which it yet retains, to the entrance to the Mersey."

The term was by no means an uncommon one, a large mansion at Aldford, near Chester (still in existence), and another at Claydon, near Ipswich, having been similarly named.

Nares (*Glossary*) states the term was given to "a mansion, ill kept up, and where no hospitality was practised; a mansion very fine outwardly, but ill furnished within," and is well illustrated by the following extract from Taylor's Works, published 1630:—

"No times observ'd, nor charitable lawes,
The poore receive their answer from the dawes,
Who in their caying language call it plaine
Mockbegger Manour, for they came in vaine."

The appellation was, however, not restricted to empty or to inhospitable mansions, where the wayfarer's expectations of receiving charity were doomed to be disappointed; but was even occasionally applied to groups of rooks, which, having in the dim distance the appearance of large mansions, had their real character revealed only by a closer approach. A remarkable example of this kind, known by the several names of "Graned Tor," "Robin Hood's Stride," and "Mock Beggar Hall," is situated near the S.W. side of Stanton Moor, in the neighbourhood of Matlock, Derbyshire. "The uppermost points of this Tor are two vast stones standing upright, each eighteen feet high and about twenty-two yards asunder, which at a distance resemble the chimneys of an ancient mansion house, from which circumstance the pile obtained the appellation of Mock Beggar's Hall."—(Glover's *Derbyshire*, Vol. I., p. 281.)

I have italicised a portion of the quotation from Mortimer's work. It would be interesting to the lovers of folk-lore to know whether the part of the coast to which the allusion is made still bears the name.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

JUNE 26, 1878.

Original Documents.

[109] TRAYNED BANDS OF CHESHIRE.

The original of the following document exists in the Public Record Office, under the head of "Domestic State Papers, Charles I." Vol. xxvii., p. 87, and I tender it to you as "an ear for the SHEAF."

"Right Hon^{ble},

Wee the deputie Lieutenants w^{thin} the countie of Chester received direccoon from ye Right Noble William, Earle of Darbie, Lord Lieutenant of the same countie for the entertayning and assisting of Mr. Phillipp Cotton and Mr. Arthur Hum-berstone, sent downe with letters from yo^r hon^{rs} unto his Lo^p, thereby to signifie his Ma^{ties} gracious pleasure concerning the instructing and exercoising of the Trayned bands by those gentlemen: who with great dilligence (aaccording to the trust reposed in them) have p^{er}formed that service; wherein (to there comendacons) they have tooke extraordinary paynes in bringing the soldiers to p^{er}fection and knowledge in the use of their armes, aaccording to the moderne forme of disciplyne. Wee already have certified unto the Earle of Darbie, who hath given us leave hereby to make knowne the same unto yo^r hon^{rs}, humbly entreating yo^r hon^{rs} to be pleased to understand that these gentlemen's endeavours (in th^e execuoon of this service) have corresponded [with] his Ma^{ties} Royall comaunds; and that they have not mispent the tyme they had allotted them for their stay here; and thus with our humble duties we rest, at your hon^{rs} service—

G. BOOTH.

RO: CHOLMONDELEY.

RICH: WILBRAHAM.

URIAN LEGH.

RICH. EGERTON.

THO. SAVAGE."

May the last, 1626.

The letter is folded, sealed with coat armorial (three bendes), and addressed, "To the Right Ho^{ble} The Lords and others of his Ma^{ties} most ho^{ble} Privy Counsell, this."

Notting Hill Gate.

R. M. B.

[The first of the two officers named in this letter,— "Mr. Phillipp Cotton"—was fourth son of Richard Cotton, of Woodcote, county Warwick, by his wife Catherine, daughter of Roger Knevett of Whitchurch, county Salop. Philip Cotton entered his pedigree in the *Visitation of Warwickshire*, taken by Camden in 1619. He had some years previous thereto married Mabel, daughter of Lawrence Torkington, of Torkington Hall, Cheshire, by whom he had several sons. The

pedigree proves him to have been second cousin to Sir Robert Cotton, Knight, the first baronet of Connington, county Huntingdon, the famous antiquary, and the illustrious founder of the "Cottonian Library."

EDITOR.]

[110] THE OLD BRIDGE, CHESTER.

In the mayoralty of Richard Dutton, just 304 years ago, as appears by the minutes of the Corporation of Chester, dated 16th Elizabeth, 1574, the venerable Edwardian BRIDGE over the Dee had got sadly out of repair, and one of the arches had become dangerous. An order of assembly was accordingly passed to the following effect:—

"AN ARCH OF THE BRIDGE TO BE MENDED."

"And also it was then and ther ordered that the Treasurer of the said Cittie with all convenient expedioon shall cause the Arch of Dee Bridge, and that Bridge now in Ruyn and decay, to be repaired and Emended."

There are perhaps now no means of ascertaining which one of the numerous arches of that fine old Bridge it was that then needed repair, though a diligent search among the corporate records might prove the contrary. When the Bridge was originally designed each hide of land in the county contributed its mason, by direct order from the Crown, to work upon the structure.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[111] THOMAS THROPPE, OF CHESTER.

[No. 28.—May 15.]

It had been better for some men had their biographies never been written; others again, by being silently ignored, have had public injustice done to their memory. Of this latter class was THOMAS THROPPE (or THROPP, as the name was sometimes spelt), whom Bishop Bridgeman, in his day, and your correspondent G.B.B. in our own, so warmly eulogise as a good citizen and churchman.

Born in Chester about 1602, the son of Thomas Throppe, vintner, and Mayor in 1615, he was educated in The King's School, at Chester, under Mr. Dowson, and served at the same time as a chorister in the Cathedral from 1610 to 1617. In 1615, the year of his father's mayoralty, it appears from a contemporary MS. chronicle of local events in my possession that—

"Upon the ijd. days of October came first to this Cittie, Docter Moreton our newe Bishopp, who came in the place of Docter Lloyde, our late Bishopp. Many Citizens and Gentn. of the Shier brought hym to his Palace within the Mynster. THOMAS THROPPE, the eldest sonne of Mr. Thomas Thropp now Maior of this Cittie, made an Oration unto my lorde Bishopp at the Abbey Gates, at his first entrance, in Greeke and Latin."

A fairly good evidence, this, that his free education under Mr. Dowson had not been wasted on barren soil! Apprenticed to a local merchant, he took up in due time the freedom of his native city, became a member of the Corporation, and in 1630, while as yet quite a young man, was nominated as the King's Sheriff; his brother-in-law, Thomas Cowper, serving along with him the same year as the City's Sheriff. Some years later, viz., in 1637, Mr. Throppe was elevated to the civic chair, his brother-in-law Cowper following him in that dignity in 1641.

In the sad Civil War struggle, which began in Mr. Cowper's mayoralty, when he gave Sir William Brereton a specimen of his quality as a magistrate, Throppe and Cowper, with another brother-in-law of each, Mr. William Ince—a triumvirate of Chester mayors—eminently distinguished themselves, the two former gentlemen more especially, by their steadfast loyalty to their unhappy sovereign. On the 18th of September, 1642, they each lent £10 towards the £300, hastily raised to be presented to King Charles and to the Prince Charles, his son, on their approaching visit to Chester. When Mr. Francis Gamull was appointed Captain of the Trayned Band of this city, Alderman Throppe was selected by him as his Lieutenant, and never quitted his post until the final surrender of the garrison. At an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens on February 3rd, 1643, William Ince being then mayor, Aldermen Throppe and Cowper being also present, a levy of £500 was unanimously voted, so that the old city might be forthwith placed in a fortified state.

On the 1st of December, 1643, at a Council of War held in Chester Castle, Colonel John Robinson, of Gwersyllt, was ordered to repair next day, with Captains Throppe and Morgell and the 300 men of their companies, to the assistance of the King's forces then besieging Hawarden Castle. The signatures of Thomas Throppe and Thomas Cowper appear attached to this order, with those of seven other prominent royalists: the order was obeyed, and after a brisk attack the besieged garrison capitulated on the 4th of December. Captain Throppe and Alderman Cowper were included in Prince Maurice's commission, issued by him while at Chester, to swear doubtful citizens and strangers to their allegiance. On January 24, 1645, Major Throppe and Sir Edward Varney were appointed commissioners by Lord Byron to treat for peace with Sir William Brereton, but failed to obtain acceptable conditions.

On the 28th September, 1645, King Charles, who had spent the previous two days in Chester, being on the 27th an eye-witness of the defeat of his Cheshire troops on Rowton Heath, left the city for Denbigh: he was escorted thither by Sir Francis Gamull and the two brothers-in-law Throppe and Cowper; who remained for two days, and then returned to their beleaguered home. And now, months afterwards, came perforce the sur-

render of the city,—famine succeeding where assaults of arms had over and over again failed. Articles were agreed upon between the commissioners, the brothers-in-law Throppe and Ince being signatories on the royal side; and on the 3rd of February, 1646,—three years to a day from that first loyal gathering in the Town Hall, when the city bravely threw in its lot for the King,—Chester fell a prey to the victorious Parliament.

We hear nothing more of either Throppe or his brethren publicly until the Restoration; when Ince is returned to Charles' first Parliament as representative of his native city, and Throppe is almost at the same time unanimously re-elected Mayor, twenty-four years after he had first served the office,—two acts of simple justice and sympathy shown to them at the earliest moment possible by their grateful fellow-citizens.

Seven years afterwards, Thomas Throppe makes his will, leaving £10 "to the poor of the City, and rather to poor householders than to common beggars." He therein settles his estates in Chester and elsewhere on his only son Thomas, to whom also he leaves his "double guilt Nutt, being an ancient peece, and his signett ring, alsoe the pictures of his late Father and Mother, with the frames for the same. To his loveing and now onely sister, Katherine Cowper, a fair ring with a death's head upon it, with this inscription, *Vincit post funera virtus* [doubtless a memorial of his late King], desiring that her son Thomas may have the same after her death." The gallant and loyal Alderman died in June, 1669, and was buried in his old father's grave at St. Michael's Church, Chester. T. HUGHES.

[112] THINGS I REMEMBER.—No. 3.

I recollect a red-letter day in old Chester, when the good citizens were roused from their wonted quiet by the loud ringing of church bells and all the usual demonstrations of joy. The occasion was indeed calculated to excite the most torpid. PEACE had been proclaimed after an European War, and Bonaparte been banished to the island of Elba! The allied sovereigns had been invited by the Prince Regent to visit this country, and were feted right royally in London. We, too, had our fete on the 15th of August, 1814; for Lords Combermere and Hill, who had won their laurels and honours in the wars, had returned home, and came by invitation to the old city to dine with the Mayor and principal citizens at the Town Hall. I well remember as a little boy seeing the procession on that day. The heroes aforesaid, riding in an open carriage, were met at Overleigh by the Mayor and Corporation in their robes, and the city companies with music; and after attending church they paraded the principal streets, amidst the enthusiastic demonstrations of the citizens. Few probably remain who were present at that triumphal march, but such as were will certainly not have forgotten the enthusiasm of the day,—at all events not your citizen correspondent,

Newton.

T. D.-C.

Queries.

[113] CHESHIRE FOLK LORE.

1. An ex-M.P. of a well-known borough once advised me never to walk under a ladder in the street, or to transact any business of importance on a Friday. He declared *he* wouldn't do so on any account. Why?

2. When I was a lad at school, a strange boy joined our ranks with his hands literally covered with warts. The Master, who was a native of the Welsh border, staggered me by telling the boy to *steal* a scrap of beef from some butcher's stall, 'unbeknown' to the owner; to then secretly rub his warts all over with the stolen flesh; and after that to throw it slyly away over his left shoulder! The theft was committed, and the other instructions of the Master carried out, utterly regardless of the "moralities,"—and in a few days the warts vanished! But why? G. T.

[114] KING HAROLD AT CHESTER.

Who will set his wits at work to expound the following quaint bit of history as recorded by the "Monk of Chester"?

"Gyraldus Cambrensis, in his booke called 'Itenerarius,' wolde meane that Harolde had many woundes, "and lost his lefte eye with the strooke of an arrow, "and was overcome, and escaped to the countie of "Chester, and lyved there holyly, as man troweth, an "anker's (anchorite's) lyfe, in Saynt James' celle, fast "by Saynt John's chyrch, and made a goode ende, and "was knowen by his last confessyon and the commune "fame accorded in the cytie to that same."

The "commune fame" will surely require some better evidence to support it than the "last confessyon" mentioned above: it being the accepted historical tradition that Harold was slain at Hastings. What *supposed* evidence have we confirmatory of this statement other than Giraldus?

Glan Aber.

E. G. S.

[115] THE KING'S GAP.

In an old letter I once saw amongst some waste paper at a buttermilk shop in Liverpool, and which I am sorry I did not beg or buy at the time, was a reference to the writer's voyage from Dublin about a century and a half ago, "landing," as he stated, "by the ship's boat at THE KING'S GAP." I should think this must be a long defunct and disused port somewhere on the Welsh coast, for I understand from reliable authority that there is no such place in Lancashire. Any way, your new antiquarian column seems the proper place in which to record the incidental allusion in that old letter, and perhaps also to elicit some information on the subject.

Southport.

E. J. GARSTON.

[116] CHESHIRE'S LOYAL ADDRESS TO GEORGE III.

What is the incident referred to in the following scrap from an old county newspaper?—

"The following Address from the High Sheriff, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County Palatine of Chester, has been presented to his Majesty by John Crewe, Esq., and Lieutenant-Colonel Cholmondeley, attended by the Earl of Cholmondeley, Right Hon. Lord Grey, Thomas Brooke, Esq., Robert Vyner, Esq., Major Legh, John Egerton, Esq., Sir Thomas Mostyn, Baronet, Right Hon. Master of the Rolls, Sir Charles Bunbury, Baronet, W. Egerton, Esq.

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the High Sheriff, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County Palatine of Chester, beg leave to offer our most humble and sincere congratulations to your Majesty, on your late providential escape from the imminent danger to which your life has been exposed.

"Sensible of the benefits we have long enjoyed under your Majesty's just and mild Government, and with the highest veneration and respect for the virtues which so eminently adorn your character, we feel ourselves attached to your Majesty by every consideration that can endear a Prince to his people; and we most sincerely hope and trust that the Almighty Being, who has so signally interposed in favour of these kingdoms, by preserving to them your Majesty's most valuable life, will still guard and defend you from every attempt either of secret treachery or open violence, and that your Majesty may long continue to reign in the hearts and affections of a happy and loyal people.

"Signed by order of a General Meeting of the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Chester, held at Northwich, in the said county, on Monday, the 2nd day of June, 1800.

"ROGER BARNSTON, Sheriff." H.

Newton.

Replies.

[117] "CHESTER BANK."

[No 38.—MAY 15.]

This Bank, which was opened in December, 1808, in the large premises in Northgate-street, underneath the Commercial News Rooms, had only a short existence as it stopped payment on July 10, 1810. About this time the celebrated Mr. Roscoe, of Liverpool, opened a branch here, which was succeeded by Messrs. Dixons and Chilton, who carried on their banking business in the Market-square, adjoining the White Lion Hotel. On Mr. Chilton's death, Mr. Wardell joined Mr. Dixon, and on his (Mr. Wardell's) death the firm assumed the name of Dixons and Co., which it still bears, with the original title of the "Chester Bank."

The "Old Bank," was established in 1792, by Mr. Owen Williams, son of Mr. Thomas Williams, of Marlow, (afterwards known as Williams, Jones, Hughes, & Co.) He was followed on his decease by his son Mr. Thomas Peers Williams, in conjunction with the late Lord Dinorben (then Col. Hughes) who was represented by his brother, the late Mr. Hugh Robert Hughes, father of the present proprietor of Kinmel. This firm afterwards developed into Williams, Hughes, Granville, and Williams; and has since been publicly known as Williams and Company.

Castle-street.

M. HARRISON.

[118] DARNALL FOR DIM SIGHT.
[No. 70.—JUNE 5.]

This proverbial saying has no special association with Cheshire, though it is no doubt sometimes heard there as in other parts of England. It belongs indeed to the botanical as much as to the proverbial domain, and is quoted by our Cheshire author, JOHN GERARD, in his well-known *Herbal*, published in 1597. The Darnall your correspondent refers to is not the estate in Cheshire of the name, but the hurtful weed which the farmers of every county would like to see banished from their fields. GERARD says,—"Darnell hurteth the eyes, and maketh them dim, if it happen in corne, either for bread or drinke; which thing Ovid, in his first book *Pastorum*, hath mentioned,

Et careant loliis oculos vitiantibus agri.

And heereupon it seemeth that the old proverbe came, that such as are dim-sighted should be said to eate of Darnell." Possibly Darnall in Cheshire may have been originally named from the prevalence of the weed there in early times.

T. H.

[119] THE ROFT, NEAR GRESFORD.
[No. 74.—JUNE 5.]

This remarkable camp is admirably described by Pennant (*Tours in Wales*, vol. 1, p. 411). It is as he calls it "a peninsulated field," inaccessible on two sides from the natural steepness of the ground; strongly fortified on the third side by large dykes and trenches carried across the isthmus which connects it with the high land towards the south; and protected by earth-works on the fourth side, where the slope is easier, and where a road that led into the camp appears to be discernible.

The mound in the corner of the field immediately above the railway was evidently intended to be a station for observation, and commands a most extensive view. Before the railway was constructed this mound was so far from the edge of the platform on which it stands that the farmer who held the field was able to plough all round the base of it. A good deal of soil has been carried away by the railway company, and some difficulty was experienced in preventing a larger portion of the bank from falling. The

mound seems now to be safe: and no further damage to it need be feared if those who visit it will kindly assist the proprietors in their efforts to preserve the grass which protects the side.

It is not probable that any structure, beyond perhaps a wooden one, was ever erected inside the camp. Mr. Pennant considers it to have been a British post, and, speaking roughly, the space enclosed must have been eight or nine acres.

I can give no explanation of the name; which I have always known as "The Roft," and not in the plural form, "The Rofts," adopted by Mr. Pennant and by those who copy his account.

Gresford.

W. T. P.

[120] BARROWE FAMILY OF CHESHIRE.
[No. 75.—JUNE 5.]

There is no Barrowe pedigree in any Visitation of Cheshire, but the following notices of the family, derived from other sources, may contain some facts new to your querist LUCY D. T.:—Thomas Barow (the name is so written in old pedigrees), thrice Mayor of Chester, viz., in 1495, 1505, and 1516, who died 15 Henry VIII. (1524), was third in descent from Richard Barow, of the city of Chester, anno 1443. He had two sons, Thomas and Roger. The former, who died in his father's life time, had issue three sons, Roger, of Flookersbrook, who left three daughters his co-heirs, namely, Margaret, married to Hamlet Ditchfield, of Ditton, co. Lanc.; Jane married to William Sneyd, of Bradwell, co. Stafford; and Anne, married to Henry Port, of Chester; Thomas and Fulke. From Roger, the youngest son of the Mayor of Chester, descended a family settled at Potterspury, co. Northampton; and Edward Barow, or Barrow, of that place, living 1619, entered his pedigree in the *Visitation of Northampton* of that year, when the following arms were allowed:—"Argent, three torteaux, each charged with a fleur de lis of the field; on a chief azure, a bugle horn stringed, or, between two pheons of the first." Crest: "A demi-boar rampant, or, charged with three billets between two bendlets, sable." These arms were probably granted to the Mayor of Chester, as they bear a strong early Tudor character.

South Kensington.

C. BRIDGER.

[121] STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE.
[No. 90.—JUNE 12.]

In the *Stranger in Chester*, 1816, p. 94, I find that there lies buried in the south aisle of St. John's church, John Tilston, sculptor, of this city, who died September 27, 1723, aged 52. To this is appended the following statement:—"He carved the figure of QUEEN ANNE and the armorial shields which adorn the front of the Exchange."

I believe the present habitat of the statue is the Corporation store-yard in Canal-street.

T. C. H.

JULY 3, 1878.

Original Documents.

[122] EXPULSION OF THE WELSH OUT OF
CHESTER.*(Recognizance Rolls, 8 and 4 Henry IV., A.D. 1403.)*

I copied the other day, at the Record Office, London, the following Royal Writ, addressed by Henry, Prince of Wales (afterwards Henry V.), to the Mayor, Sheriffs, and Aldermen of Chester, at a time of the utmost national peril. Shrewsbury had been won and lost only six weeks before, but the pride of Owen Glyndwr had merely been humbled, not subdued: the towns and castles on the Welsh border were in a state of constant alarm, and subject to almost daily attacks from the restless enemy. King Henry, being at that time with his son and the army in Yorkshire, despatched the Prince of Wales south-westward to set our riotous district in order. Accordingly, he arrived in Chester early in September, 1403, and on the 4th of that month issued the following remarkable and very peremptory order to the Mayor and Commonalty of the city. It is evident that the loyalty of the Welsh people then in Chester was at least doubted, and probably not altogether without cause, for political or dynastic opinions were in those days rather too evenly balanced to afford any certain guarantee of permanent peace.

"Henry, son of the illustrious King of England and France, Prince of Wales, Duke of Aquitaine, Lancaster and Cornwall, and Earl of Chester, to the Mayor and Sheriffs, and also to the Aldermen of the City of Chester, greeting.

"For certain reasons which specially concern the safe custody of our city aforesaid, and in accordance with the consent of our Council, we order that forthwith, on sight of these presents, you cause to be driven out without the walls of the city aforesaid all manner of Welshmen of either sex, male as well as female. In such sort that they be thoroughly driven forth of the said city, and that no Welshman, or any person of Welsh extraction or sympathies, of whatever state or condition he may be, remain within the walls of the said city, nor enter into the same before sunrise on any day, on any excuse, nor tarry in the same after sunset, under pain of cutting off of his head; and that on no day whatsoever he journey or presume to go into the said city with arms upon him, under pain of forfeiture of the said arms, except one little knife for carving his dinner. And that they enter into no wine or beer tavern in the same city, and that they hold no meetings nor assemblies in the same, and that three of the same

Welshmen come not together within the walls aforesaid. Which thing, if they do, they shall be forthwith taken for rebels against the peace, and be committed to our gaol of the city aforesaid, there to remain until we take order about their liberation. And if it happen that any strangers, Welshmen, to wit of our county of Flynnt or other parts whatsoever of our dominions of Wales, shall be plaintiffs at the aforesaid city, then, having left their weapons and harness without the gate by which they are about to enter into the city aforesaid, they shall enter the same unarmed for the doing of their business in the same. So that in no wise they pass the night within the walls, under the direst pains. We command that you cause such guard to be ordered, set, and maintained at each gate of the city aforesaid, with watches upon the walls and elsewhere in the same city by night and day; for which guard and watches ye shall be prepared to answer,—and that you cause the articles of this brief, referring to the arresting of Welshmen in the city aforesaid and as to their not remaining in the same, to be proclaimed publicly in your bailywick for the informing of the people concerning these ordinances on our part. And ye shall carry out this to the utmost of your power, under pain of forfeiture, and be ready to answer should anything happen other than well to our said city.

Given at Chester the 4th day of Sept., in the 4th year of the reign of our said lord and father King Henry the 4th after the conquest.

BY THE COUNCIL."

Rather a warm time this for our friends the Welsh, both men and women! Numbers of them who had seen fit to surrender, and to eat the leek before the conquerors, had been pardoned on certain conditions not over agreeable; but those who remained true to their old colours, were hunted about from place to place without mercy. And as the Writ proves, all natives of the Principality, as well as those merely of Welsh blood or sympathies, who had sought homes for themselves in Chester, had to leave the old city at a day's notice, on pain of decapitation!

The citizens themselves had taken a somewhat prominent part with Henry Percy, and had joined his ranks in considerable numbers when he passed through the city to the fatal field of Shrewsbury. So they too were in disgrace with the triumphant Henries; and were only pardoned, two months before the date of the above Writ, on their finding shipping and provisions for the transport of the men going in the royal retinue to the rescue of the Castle of Beaumaris.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[123] AN EXECUTION IN CHESTER, 1771.

The following extract from a letter dated Chester, Sept. 7, 1771, appears in the *Annual Register* for that year :—

"The following is an account of John Chapman, who was executed here for robbing Martha Hewitt, of this county. At the hour appointed he was conducted to the place of execution by a greater number of constables than usual, as there was some suspicion of a rescue by the vast concourse of sailors (he being one of that profession) that accompanied him. On his setting out, a book was put into his hand by the hangman, which he no sooner received than he threw among his brother shipmates, as he termed them; and they immediately tore it to pieces. A clergyman then got into the cart, and exhorted him to behave with more decency, and to think of his sudden change; but instead of attending to this admonition, he got up in the cart, and (being pinioned) drove his head in the clergyman's belly, and tumbled him out of the cart:—After this he flung himself out, and attempted to run into the midst of the sailors, but was prevented by the irons with which he was loaded:—he was then seized and tied by ropes in the cart, and in that manner was tied to the fatal tree:—at his arrival there he refused either to hear prayers or to pray himself; therefore two men, together with the hangman, attempted to lift him up, to fix the rope about his neck, in doing of which, he by some means got the hangman's thumb in his mouth, which he almost separated from the hand: he was at last tied up, but with great difficulty."

The foregoing is not "original matter of value," to which you wisely announce you will give preference; but failing contributions of that kind this may be worth binding in your *SHEAF* as a specimen of bye-gone times.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[124] CHESTER STREETS AT NIGHT IN 1503.

[No. 81.—June 12.]

Following up your editorial remarks on this subject, I may be permitted to add a thought or two which occurred to me on reading that article.

The watchmen of the various wards, at and after that date, not only in Chester but in other more populous towns, perambulated the dark streets at long intervals, carrying links or fire-brasiers high above their heads to notify their approach; just as the modern "charlies," whom some of us still remember, called out the hour, and the state of the weather, or their consoling "all's well!" as they trudged their nightly rounds about the city. This was an excellent arrangement for the burglars and other thieves, who were thus able to hide themselves away in the dark corners of the streets and rows until the watch had passed by.

The "ale-bowers," referred to in the Order of Assembly given above, were rooms set apart in private houses, where home-brewed liquor could be bought and

consumed independently of the licensed taverns. "Bower" is a good old English word signifying a chamber: and when, in summer, the refreshments were served in the garden arbour instead of the house, the name "bower" was still used, and it survives in that and a kindred sense to the present day.

G. T.

[125] THE MOW COP DIALECT.

The following are additional specimens of the dialect of this neighbourhood :—

MULLOK.—Mess. Confusion. Rubbish.

"The *mullok* on an heap yswoweeped was,
And on the floor yeast a canévas,
And all this *mullok* in a sieve ythrow,
And sifted, and ypicked many a throw (time).

—Chaucer, C.T., The Canon's Yeoman's Tale.

CRUDS. CRUDDLED. Curds. Curdled.

"Through every vein
The *crudled* cold ran to her well of life,
As in a swoon."

—Spenser, F.Q., i. ix.

"Her breast like a bowl of cream *uncruded*."—Spenser, *Epithalamion*.

NUZZLE. Nestle.

"The dew no more will sleep,
Nuzzle'd in the lily's neck."

—Crashaw.

CRILL. Chill. Thrill. All of a *crill*.

DUMBERDASH. Smash. Breakdown.

HOLL. Throw (probably from hurl). Ex.: He
holl'd a stone.

LECK. LECKIN'. Water. Watering. Akin to
Liquor. Leak. Leaking. (Dutch,—*Leck*, a
chink,—*lekken*, to drip). A person watering
flowers is said to be *leckin'* them. A watering
can is called a *leckin'* can. A fire put out by
means of water is said to be *lecked-out*.

SADE. Tire. Surfeit. Anglo-Saxon, *Sād*, sated,
weary. Too much puddin' ud' *sade* a dog, is
the local way of expressing the undesirability
of too much, even of a good thing.

SELL SHOP.—It is locally said of a trades-person that
"He *sells shop*." The writer knew the lad
who, probably with some considerable pride,
is said to have boasted: "*Weigh* (we) *sell'n* a
wustid shop, an' *weigh keepen aw colours o'*
black thrid."

Mow Cop.

G.H.

Queries.

[126] ROBERT WILBRAHAM.

Our Cheshire herbalist, Gerard, writing in 1598 of the *Water Gladiole*, or grassie Rush, says, "It is of all others the fairest and most pleasant to behold, and serveth very well for the decking and trimming up of

houses, because of the beantie and branerie thereof. I found it in great plentie, being in companie with a worshipfull gentleman, Master ROBERT WILBRAHAM, at a village fifteen miles from London, called Bushey. It groweth likewise by the famous river Thamesis, not far from a piece of ground called the Diuel's neckerchiefe neere Redriffe by London." [Gerard's *Herball*, 1599, page 27.] Perhaps some of your genealogical contributors can enlighten me as to the family of this Master Robert Wilbraham, whose name is absent from the several Wilbraham pedigrees printed in Ormerod's *Cheshire*. G.T.

[127] OIL OF HAZEL.

My little boy is at a Grammar School in Birkenhead. Some two months or more ago he was sent from the playground by a senior boy to a chemist's shop with a small phial, to have it filled with HAZEL OIL. The chemist's assistant threatened to beat him soundly if he did not get out of the shop instant! What offence could my little fellow possibly have committed to deserve such strangely harsh treatment?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[128] FORTIFICATIONS OF CHESTER.

In Broster's *History of the Siege of Chester* there is an interesting Plan of the Fortifications hurriedly set up by the loyal citizens soon after the outbreak of the Civil War. When similar trouble was anticipated from the invading march of the so-called Pretender, the military authorities at Chester pursued a like course. Is any Plan of those later fortifications extant?

T. T.

Replies.

[129] NANTWICH CHURCH.

[Nos. 9 and 27.—May 1 and 8.]

I venture to make a few remarks upon the Queries advanced by the Rev. F. G. BLACKBURN respecting some portions of "The finest Parish Church in Cheshire," as the late Sir Gilbert Scott aptly called that of Nantwich, hoping they will incite others to do the same.

I notice that the room over the south porch is called a *Parvise*; but although now commonly known as such, the term is erroneous, and is so employed, according to Parker (*Glossary*), apparently without any authority. Its proper application is to the space in front of a church (the common name for it in France), partly or wholly surrounded by cloisters, and may even include the buildings surrounding the latter. An interesting local example is thus stated by Parker:—"The Cloister-garth at Chester is called the *Sprie* garden, an evident corruption of *Le parvis*." (Does the place continue to bear this name?)

The erection of a room over the south porch was not uncommon in churches built during the perpendicular period, and it was employed for various purposes. Occasionally it served the purposes of a chapel, and would then contain a piscina, &c. If it has not already been done, it would be as well to examine the south porch room at Nantwich Church for any remains of such a structure, as this discovery would at once set at rest the original character of the room. My own opinion inclines to the idea that it was the original "Treasury of Our Lady," where all the ecclesiastical vestments and treasures, especially of MSS. and early printed works, were kept in safe custody; and which has been continued down to late times under the name of the Church Library. The presence of a fireplace and the absence of all communication, except with the body of the church, rather tend to confirm this opinion. Parker suggests such a room may have sometimes served "for the use of an anchorite."

The "lean-to" adjoining and opening into the south porch at Nantwich was probably added, either for the use of a minor brother who had the immediate care of the church, or, as Mr. HUGHES suggests, for the safe custody of articles employed in the daily services, &c.

It is altogether unlikely that either the room over the porch or the "lean-to" had anything to do with the *Domus Leprosorum*, which is situated in the Welsh Row. The lepers formed a portion of the proscribed races—the "races mandites"—who were inhibited from entering a church except by special entrance, and were restricted to a certain part of the edifice set apart for their use. It is thought by Ecclesiologists that many of the doorways so frequently found blocked up on the north side of the nave—an example of which may be seen at Tarvin Church—were originally intended for the use of this class. A small blocked-up doorway in the Church at Little Hampton, near Totnes, Devon, has long been known by the name of the "Devil's door."

Brookwood, Surrey. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

[180] GOD'S CROFT.

[Nos. 12, 42, and 76.—May 1 and 15, June 5.]

I would ask, is not Nixon's indication of a place of safety for men, in the great war he predicted, misreported? Did he not answer, or mean, in God's Acre, in the churchyard, under the daisies? The story of Nixon sitting on Storeton Hill, discoursing on judgment day with a miller, is as apocryphal as his prophecies. Where did the writer of the tract you mention get his facts from?

Upton Heath.

B. DONBAYAND.

[181] THE BOTHAMS.

[No. 72.—June 5.]

I think it may be accepted for a fact that there is no such place in Cheshire as "The Bothams," and no such settled family there as the HAMMESLEYS. The

name belongs to Staffordshire, and in that direction I should recommend your correspondent C. J. BAYLEY to turn her thoughts. A pretty long experience, among all sorts of Cheshire historical and genealogical documents prior to the last century, enables me to say that I have never met with the name, and that it must in my opinion be sought for beyond the limits of this County Palatine.

The Registers of Gresford parish, co. Denbigh, contain an entry which may, or may not, be of use to your correspondent, but which, for her satisfaction, I will copy out in full:—"John Hammarley, of Hawarden parish, and Sarah Williams, of Gresford, married by licence (at Gresford) 20th Nov., 1721." I may further state, as the result of a recent personal search, that no Will of a Hammarley has ever been proved at Chester since the foundation of the See, at all events to the close of the 17th century. G. T.

[132] "BOYDELL FAMILY."
[No. 87.—JUNE 12.]

I find on referring to a copy of the "Scrope and Grosvenor Roll," that a Geoffrey de Boidell gave evidence in the cause, and thinking your correspondent might like to know what was deposed I have much pleasure in sending copy of the same.

"GEOFFREY BOIDELL," aged 38 years and upwards, admitted to his oath, and diligently examined whether the said arms of "azure, a bend or," belong of right to Sir Robert Grosvenor, affirms that the aforesaid Sir Robert declared, to the best of his knowledge, and that he had learned from charters and from old people to whom he gave credence, that the ancestors and progenitors of him the said Sir Robert, even from the time of the Conquest of England descending through the male line right down to the said Sir Robert, had used and borne the said arms peaceably before the world and quietly, without contradiction or challenge, &c., to the contrary, prior to this present dispute arising. And says also, remembering his aforesaid oath, that he had seen the said Sir Robert armed with the said arms in different places in Guyenne, that is to say, at Issoudenn, at Broee, and at Blanq in Berry, and in the siege of Rochersirion in Poitou. And repeating the said oath, he further says, that he had seen the said arms painted of ancient date, as is apparent to the eye, in the glass windows of the churches of Moberley and of Warton [Waverton], and in the chapel of the manor of Hulme [Holmes Chapel]: and he furthermore says that he had heard say that a Robert Grosvenor, who was grandfather of the aforesaid Sir Robert, was buried in the parish church of Budworth, and declares that he had seen there the said arms engraved on a stone placed over the body of Robert the said grandfather; and that, in the church of the Friars Minors of Chester, he had seen the said

arms painted where the great grandmother of the said Sir Robert was interred, as he had heard from the said Friars and several others; and had seen old charters and muniments sealed with seals having the said arms and the names of the ancestors of the said Sir Robert engraved thereon: and he besides says that public opinion and fame had been, and is, in the county of Chester, and in other places thereabouts, that the said arms of "azure, a bend, or" rightfully belong to Sir Robert Grosvenor, and had belonged to his ancestors from ancient times as above deposed.

"The examination of the foregoing witness (with others) produced on the part of Sir Robert Grosvenor at Stockport, on the 8th day of September in the year of grace aforesaid [1386] was conducted by Sir Nicholas Vernon, Sir William Brumburgh, parson of Aldeforde, and Sir John Rosyndale, commissioners and examiners specially appointed in this behalf."

Brixton.

B. C. BOSTOCK.

[This extract reached us in the original mediæval French from our correspondent, but it has been thought best to insert it here in an English dress. Can any of our correspondents say to which branch of the BoydeLL family this Geoffrey belonged? He was manifestly a Cheshire man, though we have as yet failed to trace him in any of our printed pedigrees. ED.]

[133] THE MSS. OF THE REV. JOHN STONES.
[No. 102.—JUNE 19.]

Seeing a reference to some missing MSS. of the Rev. John Stones, some time Rector of Coddington, I thought it might perhaps be of some interest to the enquirer to know that there is in my possession as Rector of Coddington a MS. by this Mr. Stones. It is unfortunately only the beginning of what was intended to be a history of the Parish of Coddington. It consists of about 13 closely-written pages of a quarto volume, and gives a history of the parish in general, and a particular account of the township of Coddington-cum-Beachin, some surveys of this part of the parish, and a list of the Rectors. It is dated 1721.

He leaves it to the Rector of Coddington for the time being, and charges any other person into whose hand it might chance to fall to restore it "to the right owner, as he or she expects justice in this world, or hopes for mercy in another." Perhaps if the missing MSS. had been guarded by a like denunciation they might still be in the Chapter Library.

Coddington Rectory.

F. C. ROYDS.

[134] THE KING'S GAP.
[No. 115.—JUNE 26.]

A part of the sea coast at Hoylake, Cheshire, bears the above name, so called from the circumstance of William Prince of Orange having embarked there for Ireland, 11th June, 1690. This is doubtless the place alluded to in the letter of your correspondent from Southport.

Parkgate-road.

FRANK H. WILLIAMS.

JULY 10, 1878.

Original Documents.

[135] A CHESTER SCHOOLMASTER IN 1682.

The following notes, illustrating educational restrictions two centuries ago, may, from their local character, interest some of your readers. They are derived from a "Return of all Appeals in Causes of Doctrine or Discipline made to the HIGH COURT OF DELEGATES. (See House of Commons Return, 1868, No. 199, p. 37.) The suit to which they refer was instituted in the CONSISTORY COURT OF CHESTER, and was continued by Appeal in the CONSISTORY COURT OF YORK, and the DELEGATES. The parties to the Appeals were:—

"JONATHAN BUTTER, of the Parish of St. John, in the City and Diocese of Chester, Gentleman, *Appellant*; against The Venerable Thomas Wainwright, LL.D., Vicar General of the Bishop of Chester, *Respondent*."

CONSISTORY OF CHESTER, 22nd March, 1682-3.—

BUTTER was cited before the Consistory of Chester for contempt of the Law and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in teaching boys without having obtained any faculty or licence. Having confessed the charge he was monished to obtain a Licence by a certain day; but not then producing one, was warned under pain of excommunication to desist from exercising the office of Schoolmaster within the City of Chester, without having first obtained a Licence. On a subsequent day (21st June, 1683) he was asked by the Judge whether he relinquished the office of Schoolmaster, and not replying, was sentenced 'pro confesso haberi,' and to be excommunicated. From this Decree he appealed to the Court at York.

CONSISTORY OF YORK.—9th November, 1684.—The Court at York affirmed the Decree of the Court below, remitted the cause, and condemned BUTTER in the costs. Upon this he appealed again.

DELEGATES.—There is no record of any proceedings before the Delegates after the 17th July, 1685. After this date the Appeal appears to have been abandoned.

The Delegates were: Sir Creswell Levinz, Knight, Justice of the King's Bench, Sir Richard Holloway, Knight, Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir Thomas Street, Knight, Baron of the Exchequer. (Sir Leoline Jenkins, Knight, LL.D., and (John) Edisbury, (Thomas) Pinfold, (William) Oldys, and (Robert) Pepper, Doctors of Laws.

CHARLES BRIDGER.

South Kensington.

[This fight ended as most others have done before and since,—the weaker went to the wall. A reconciliation then took place between the Chancellor and Butter, and on the 24th December, 1686, Bishop Cart-

wright, in his *Diary*, p. 21, writes, "Mr. Hancock [Minister of St. Michael's] and Mr. Rutter dined with me." Moreover, on the 29th of the same month, the Bishop records this satisfactory paragraph, "I sealed a licence to Jonathan Butter to be schoolmaster in St. John's in Chester," and thus all the interests concerned shook hands in peace. Mr. Rutter's school was kept at the house in St. John's Churchyard which adjoined the fine old porch, and impinged on the north aisle of the church. Mr. Orange afterwards conducted a school in the same house, which the late Marquis of Westminster pulled down, restoring the site to the parishioners. Mr. Jonathan Rutter was a Cheshire man born, and one of the family settled at Newbrough in Great Budworth. He died at Chester, and was buried at St. John's, 5 Decr. 1688.

EDITOR.]

[136] RANDLE HOLME'S GIFT TO THE HERALDS' COLLEGE.

The "Letters and Papers of Gregory King, Lancaster Herald, 1680-1717," found in the Harleian MS. 6944. Plut. LXIX, E, No. 29, contain the following somewhat oringling Letter from Randle Holme. It runs *en suite* to the one appearing in the SHEAF of May 8; to which 'Rouge Croix' (Mr. S. Tucker) on May 22, so kindly supplied the context from the Chapter Books of Heralds' College.

"Mr. King

"After my Humble service p'sented to my Mr. Norroy (whose servant I am) & y'r selfe, these are to desire the continuence of your favour towards me according as y'w promised, w'ch was, at the Last Chapter or meeting of the office y'w would present them my Book, which I hope you have done, and they tyme sufficient to p'use it. All as I desire is that I may fro' the King, or other Herald of Armes authorized for that purpose, have a License for the publishing thereof, as in my former letter I desired fro' y'w; this is only my request; if it may be granted, it will much oblige me to remain a friend and servant to the office, as ever my Ancessors have bine, and remain though in Hast,

Yours to serve you at all tymes,

RANDLE HOLME.

Chester, j Aug: 1692.

"I desire y'r Answ:—"

The superscription of the letter is as follows:—

"These,

"for Mr. Gregory King, An Herald at Armes at the Herald's office, to be delivered with care and speed, London."

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

The Temple, London.

[Randle Holme, if he did not actually succeed in getting for his ponderous tome the imprimatur of the college, certainly deserved to do so, for so pertinaciously sticking to his master Norroy. The way in which he pleads his ancestral claims to Mr. Norroy's favour shows

how anxious he was to secure the favour of his chief; and it would be really interesting to know whether any good result followed this renewed application.

His "ACADEMIE OF ARMOURY" appears to have hung fire in the market for want of this official patronage, and it probably brought little profit to its industrious author; and yet there is scarcely a Cheshire work in existence that now excites more lively interest among book-hunters, or that always fetches so high a price.

EDITOR.]

Notes.

[137] DOD FAMILY OF SHOOKLACH, CHESHIRE.

On a brass plate against the south wall in St. Michael's Church, Cambridge, was existing in 1874, and I suppose is still, the following memorial of a young Cheshire scholar:—

"Prope jacet Edvardus Radulphi Dod de Shookledge in comitatu Cestriensi, generosi, quondam Collegii Caio Gonviliensis per triennium alumnus, optime spei juvenis, qui vitam mortalem cum immortalis commutavit 26 Sept. 1636, æt. 19.

In illius morbumardentem febrem.

Caste puer flammis sic æscia vrera? vinco

Ut credam, tostas febre frisse nives.

Flamma digne puer meliore, Ito quoque ævum Syderibus mistis, jam novis ignis eris."

The Dods are a good old Cheshire family, hailing originally from Edge, where the elder line still survives. The DODS OF SHOOKLACH separated from the main stock in the 15th century, and divided into several branches, all settled at or near Shooklach: but to which of these the young collegian belonged is somewhat uncertain, for the pedigrees in Ormerod's *Cheshire* do not name him. The following arms are on the brass plate in Cambridge, and may, in the hands of a skilled genealogist, help to identify him:—"Argent, on a fess gules, between 3 bars sable, 3 crescents, or: quartering 1st, sable and gules, an eagle displayed argent; 2nd, Argent, 3 mullets sable, pierced of the field."

Gresford.

T. O. W.

Queries.

[138] THE TREASURY IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

The late Sir Gilbert Scott was heard more than once to state that there had existed, long after the Reformation, an inner chamber within the Cathedral of Chester, appropriated of old time and commonly known as "The Treasure House." What is known of this chamber, and where is it situated? L. L.

[139] CREWE RAILWAY STATION.

I suppose the land upon which the present large station at Crewe now stands was immediately prior to its occupation by the railway company mere open fields, and under cultivation by the resident farmer. Will someone kindly put upon record the names of the farm, and of the particular field or fields now included within the station? Independent of serving my present purpose, the information will be interesting hereafter as a matter of history. G. T.

[140] BROMBOROUGH OLD CHURCH.

When the present new Church was in building, I think I remember it being stated in the *Chester Courant* that the old and worn-out edifice, which stood not quite on the modern site, was not to be pulled down, but would remain as an object of antiquarian interest, as well as an evidence of the need of a new church. Can you inform me if my memory serves me truly, and whether the old Church is at convenient hours available for inspection? CAMERO-BRITON.

[141] PETER PINDAR.

What connection had he with Cheshire? I always understood this to be a *nom de plume* of a distinguished wit and author of half a century since; but I have just been told that both Christian and surname occur in the Cheshire annals at least two hundred years ago.

L. L.

Replies.

[142] "CHESTER BANK."

[Nos. 38 and 117.—May 15 and June 26.]

Anterior to Rowton and Morhall's Bank, which was the primary object of this Query, I find a bank carried on in Watergate-street, by Messrs. Thomas and Hasketh, which ultimately failed, and about forty years since a final dividend completing 20s. in the pound was paid. Notes were issued by this firm—black in the ground-work, the letters white—in allusion to which the public generally designated the establishment the "Black Bank." Possibly the dismal nickname precipitated its fall.

In the early days of the "Old Bank," Messrs. Owen Williams, Jones, and Co., issued their own notes, some of which are still preserved as curiosities in the present firm's archives.

Castle-street.

M. HARRISON.

[143] ABYLL, A STOCKPORT TENURE.

[No. 48.—May 22.]

By the courtesy of the Querist, Mr. HEGINBOTHAM, I have had an opportunity of examining the original record of the Stockport Grand Leet Court, in which this word *Abyll* occurs. There is no doubt as to the

spelling of the word in the deed, nor can there be any, I think, as to its intended meaning.

It was a custom of large manors, not only in Cheshire but elsewhere, and especially in large towns, that, when copyholds or such like property changed hands by sale or descent, the tenant had to present himself at the next Court Leet, and do suit and service for his lands or tenements to the Lord of the Manor, in token of his liability to fight under his banner whenever called upon to do so.

Thus, not to multiply instances, when any young freeman of Chester attended at the Town Hall to take up his franchise and be sworn to his allegiance to the Crown and to the city, he had to clothe himself in armour, and so present himself to Mr. Mayor; indicating thereby his liability to be summoned to that actual military service, of the which this was only the symbol.

The Manor of Bradwall, which adjoins Stockport, was held, in 1437, in demesne as of fee, by Robert Davenport, by the tenure of one habergeon (breast-plate), and this service continued to be rendered in Queen Elizabeth's reign. The Carringtons, again, held lands at Hattersalegh in Mottram, under the Stockports, by the render of a barbed arrow annually.

Finally, Sir Robert Stockport's charter to the burgesses of Stockport, dated about 1200, seems to me to settle the question as to this term *ABYLL* :—

"*Item, cum burgensis moriatur, heres ejus nullum aliud relevium dabit mihi, nisi hujusmodi arma, gladium, arcum, vel lanceam,*"—which, translated for the ordinary reader, runs as follows :—

"Item, when a burgess happens to die, his heir shall pay to me no other relief except some kind of arms, sword, bow, or lance." Separate the indefinite article "A" from *Abyll*, and we get A Bill, bill-hook, or lance, answering to the very words of the charter.

T. H.

[144] CHESHIRE CHEESE.

[No. 71.—June 31.]

The following scrap, occurring in an article on the "Antiquity of Cheese," and therefore of some passing interest to Cheshire and the readers of the *SHEAF*, is from Timbs' "Nooks and Corners of English Life," 1867, page 210. It will, moreover, answer part of the Query of *CLERICUS* in the No. for June 5 :—

"The County of Chester was, ages since, famous for the excellence of its cheese. It is stated that the Countess Constance of Cheshire (reign of Henry 2nd, 1190), though the wife of Earl Randle Blundeville, and the King's daughter-in-law, kept a herd of kine, and made good cheese, three of which she presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

"Giraldus Cambrensis, in the 12th century, bears honourable testimony to the excellence of the Cheshire cheese of his day.

"Chester retains its celebrity for cheese-making. The pride of its people in the superiority of its cheese may be gathered from the following provincial song,

with the music, published in 1746, during the Spanish war, in the reign of George 2nd :—

A Cheshire man sailed into Spain
To trade for merchandise;
When he arrived from the main,
A Spaniard him espies,
Who said, "You English rogue, look here
What fruits and spices fine
Our land produces twice a year!
Thou hast not such in thine!"

The Cheshire man ran to his hold
And fetched a Cheshire cheese,
And said, "Look here, you dog, behold,
We have such fruits as these!

Your fruits are ripe but twice a year,
As you yourself do say,
But such as I present you here
Our land brings twice a day."

The Spaniard in a passion flew
And his rapier took in hand;
The Cheshire man kicked [tripped] up his heels,
Saying, "Thou'rt at my command!"

So never let a Spaniard boast
While Cheshire men abound;
Lest they should teach him, to his cost,
To dance a Cheshire Round!*

* Dogget, the actor, who bequeathed the coat and badge to be rowed for annually on the Thames, was noted for dancing the "Cheshire Round," as he is represented in his portrait.

The Temple.

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[145] THE ROFT, NEAR GRESFORD.

[No. 74 and 106, June 5 and 19.]

In the 17th and early in the 18th centuries, there are several incidental references to this projecting spur of land, in the parish registers of Gresford. From these it is plain that this elevated situation was even in those days looked upon as a pleasant outlook, and a desirable spot for genteel residence.

"Richard Edgebury, filius (sic) Mr. Kenrick Edgubury, of ye Roft a Castell, by Marford, baptized ye 27th November, 1668.

"Margaret Blackburn, daughter of George Blackburn, gent., of Roft, a Cassell in this parish, was baptized 9th May, 1710.

"Thomas Wynne, son of Mr. Richard Wynne, of Roft, a Castell, bapt. 13 Jany., 1726."

The house or "castle," so favourite a residence of the local gentry at that period, has, I suppose, entirely passed away; but there are many spots less desirable for a summer retreat than that lofty keep which commands both the Gresford and Cheshire vales. The name *ROFT* is in origin most likely Welsh: and if so, I hope some Cambrian scholar will help us to make out its meaning.

T. HUGHES.

[146] STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE.

[Nos. 90 and 121.—June 12 and 26.]

Could not the statue of Queen Anne be rescued from oblivion, say either in a niche in the lobby of the Town Hall; or, should there be any idea of a drinking fountain in the Town Hall Square, then as an ornament in connection with that?

Newton.

H.

[147] ANCIENT STONE AT GRESFORD.

[No. 103.—June 19.]

The stone under a sycamore tree, where the lane to Gresford turns off from the Wrexham and Chester road, is unquestionably—as it has always been reputed to be—the base of a Wayside Cross. It is described by Mr. Thomas in his valuable *History of the Diocese of St. Asaph*, p. 804, and it is also noticed by the writer of a little book called *Wrexham and its Neighbourhood*, which contains a good deal of local antiquarian information.

The hole on the top of the stone, which A RESIDENT IN THE ROWS mentions, has been the socket for the pillar of the cross. There are figures carved on the four corners of the stone. These are considerably defaced, and appear to be of rude workmanship, probably not earlier than the 15th century.

It has been wrongly supposed that this Cross has been the origin of the name of "Gresford." The meaning of the word however, which occurs as "Croes-fordd" in early records, and I need scarcely say is Welsh, is not the road of the Cross, but the cross road.

The old road from Wrexham to Chester ran past the church and through the village of Gresford; and it is only about 90 years ago that the present road was made from the sycamore tree to the top of Merford Hill. The crossing of roads from which Gresford is denominated occurred, I believe, at the great yew tree in the churchyard, which stands at the intersection of the old Wrexham and Chester and the Holt and Caergwrle roads. The latter of these roads was once an important one, and it is certainly very antient, as both Holt and Caergwrle were Roman out-posts. A small camp, which gives the name of Nant-y-Gaer to an adjoining dingle, about three quarters of a mile from the church on the way towards Caergwrle, appears to indicate the course which this road has taken. It may be worth while to mention that the place adjoining the corner of the churchyard where the yew tree stands, is still popularly called "the cross."

There were several Wayside Crosses in the neighbourhood of Gresford. Within a mile of Wrexham, on the Chester Road, there is a large stone built into the wall of Acton Park, and marked by a deep out cross, which few persons who have passed by can have failed to notice. This was placed there about the end of the last century, and it was the last remaining portion of a cross which stood in the field opposite, where a road formerly ran in the direction of a farmhouse still called *Croes-yn-Eirias*. Another cross stood at *Croes Howell*, about a mile from the Rosset Station, at the foot of the steep hill on the road to Minera. The base of it still occupies its old position; but in consequence of a diversion of the road it is now enclosed within the adjoining grounds.

W. T. P.

[148] CHESHIRE'S LOYAL ADDRESS TO GEORGE III.

[No. 116.—June 26.]

The "incident referred to" by "H., Newton," was, doubtless, Hatfield's attempt on the life of His Majesty in Drury Lane Theatre on the 11th of May, 1800, that being the second attempt to shoot the King on the same day. Several loyal addresses were sent up from various parts of the country, but they were scarcely so general, I think, as on an occasion five years earlier. Bread riots all over the country in 1795 culminated in an attack on the King as he went to open Parliament on October 29 of that year. Stones were thrown at the royal carriage, and the populace cried out "Bread! bread!" One man, it is stated in an old M.S. diary I have seen, was taken up before the Mayor of Oswestry, suspected of being a ringleader in the attack. Several of the addresses of congratulation presented from Wales and the Border Counties have been referred to in *Bye-gones*, published at the *Oswestry Advertiser Office*.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

JULY 17, 1878.

Original Documents.

[149] HIGH PRICE OF PROVISIONS IN 1596.

In this year the dearth of provisions throughout the country was such that even the middle classes were reduced to very great straits, and how the poor could have managed to live at all is a mystery. In the face of this wide spread calamity, the Mayor and Corporation of Chester finding that, by reason of the tolls levied on foreign produce in the city, merchants would not bring their grain to this port, very wisely for a time loosened their iron cords, as set forth in the following Order of Assembly, bearing date the 8th of October, 38th Elizabeth (1596), William Aldersey, Mayor.

"NOE TOLLE TO BE TAKEN OF CORNE SENT TO BE DELIVERED IN THE CITIE."

"Alsoe a question is made by Mr. Maior whether any toll of Corne (bought in Wirrall or other places, and sent to this citie to be deliv'd to him that hath bought the same) shalbe taken or not, it is fully ordered by this whole Assembly, that noe tolle thereof shalbe taken."

But notwithstanding all this, prices remained at famine pitch, as appears by the following record on almost the first page of the ancient Minute Book of the "Paynters, Glaziers, Embroiderers, and Stationers' Company" at Chester.

"Anne a Natu Saluatoris nostri,
1596.

"Wheat was sould in this year for above xl.
shillings the Busshell.

Rhy at xxxvij s. the Bushell.

Barlye at xxxij s. the Bushell.

Sack at x d. the quart.

Gascoigne, Whyte, and claret at viij d. the quart.

Good ale iij d. and iiij d. the quart.

Oatmeale groats at v d. the quart.

fleash, Butter, mylk, verey deare.

THOMAS CHALONER.

"1597. Rhy at xxj s. buz: (bushel) at alhalou-
tyde."

The scribe who recorded these facts in the Company's Books was Mr. Thomas Chaloner, an antiquary and arms painter at Chester, holding moreover the heraldic dignity of Ulster King at Arms. He was Clerk and past Steward of the Paynters', &c., Company, and the honoured Master of the first Randle Holme; who, at Chaloner's death, May 10, 1598, took up the mantle of his teacher, married his widow, and so founded a family of distinguished Chester heralds, whose joint Collections fill some 257 volumes in the British Museum.

G. T.

[150] THE BARONY OF KINDERTON.

When, at the Conquest, and to consolidate his position in this part of the country, King William placed Hugh, his nephew, at Chester, he invested him with almost absolute regal power over the whole of Cheshire and much of the surrounding district. Earl Hugh was not slow to profit by his uncle's confidence. He forthwith established a sort of local parliament (one of the earliest and most ambitious of its kind), to assist him in bringing his large possessions into order, and their wild resident population into thorough subjection. This necessary duty, with his own iron hand and theirs, he was not slow in accomplishing. With subtle judgment, he created certain of his more prominent followers Barons, distributing them widely over the county; and of these VENABLES, Baron of KINDERTON, was one. These Barons enjoyed the right of life and death over their dependents, as was recently shown by B. LL. V. in the CHESHIRE SHEAF, for May 29th.

For many generations the blood and name of the Venables' ruled paramount at Kinderton, until 1679, when Peter Venables, Esq., the 22nd Baron, died, leaving two daughters his co-heiresses. Of these, one died soon after her father, and Anne, the survivor, married in 1687, as set forth in the following heraldic document. She died issueless on the 28th of April, 1715, and was buried at Rycote in Oxfordshire, the plate upon her coffin containing perhaps the longest inscription that was ever placed, before or since, in such a position.

The document is illuminated upon vellum, and runs as follows:—

TO ALL AND SINGULAR to whom these Presents shall come, Sr. Thomas St. George, Knight, Garter Principal King of Arms, Sr. Henry St. George, Knight, Clarenceux King of Arms, and Sr. John Dugdale, Knight, Norroy King of Arms, send Greeting. Whereas the Right Honble. MOUNTAGU BERTIE, Lord NORREYS, now of KINDERTON in the County Palatine of Chester, Son and Heir apparent of the Right Honble. James, Earl of Abingdon, hath humbly represented to His Majesty, That He having married ANNE VENABLES, the sole Surviving daughter and heir of PETER VENABLES, Esq., late BARON of KINDERTON, in the County aforesaid, deceased, and being thereby entitled to the Barony, and other the Lands, Mannors and Messuages of the said PETER VENABLES, was desirous to assume and bear the Surname of VENABLES, together with the Arms of the said PETER VENABLES in Chief, His Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the same, and by Warrant under his Signet and Sign Manual, dated the Tenth of this instant November, did direct the Earle Marshall to cause the same to be Registered in the College of Arms, and to require the Officers of Arms to Exemplify and assign the said Arms, pursuant to his Majesties pleasure signified in his said Warrant. Know ye therefore that We the said Garter, Clarenceux, and Norroy, in pursuance of his said Majesties pleasure signified unto Us by Warrant or Order under the hand and Seal of his Grace Henry, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshall of England, bearing date the 16th of this instant November, have exemplified the Arms of the said MOUNTAGU VENABLES-BERTIE, Lord NORREYS, with the Arms of the said PETER VENABLES, late Baron of Kinderton, in Chief, in manner following, That is to say, Quarterly of Six, in the first, VENABLES and BERTIE quarterly; in the Second, WILLUGHBY; in the third, BREAK; in the fourth, UFFORD; in the fifth, NORREYS; and in the Sixth and last, LEE, as in the margin hereof is more plainly depicted. WHICH ARMS and Quarterings so Marshallled and Exemplified, We do by these presents Assign and allow unto ye said MONTAGU VENABLES-BERTIE, Lord Norreys, and to the Descendants of his Body begotten or to be begotten on ye said ANNE VENABLES, now his wife, and to every of them, with their several and respective differences according to the Law of Arms, without the lett or interruption of any person or persons whatsoever. In witness whereof, We ye said Garter, Clarenceux, and Norroy, have hereunto subscribed Our Names and affixed ye Seals of Our respective Offices, this 24th day of November, in ye 3d year of ye Reign of Our Sovereign Lord James ye 2d, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotl'd, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Domini, 1687.

All this heraldic trouble came to nought on the death, issueless, of this Kinderton heiress: with that event, too, the interest of the Berties in the name and lands of Venables passed utterly away; and thus probably it is that an otherwise precious document has fallen finally into my possession.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[151]

MOW COP DIALECT.

[No. 69.—June 6.]

A few remarks upon the origin, &c., of this Dialect given by your correspondent G. H., may, I trust, not prove irksome to your readers:—

1. FITCHES.—There is much doubt whether this or *vetches* be the older word. Tusser, in 1557, wrote—

“Now is the season

For sowing of *fitches* of beans, and of peason.”

Whilst at a much later period Dryden has the line—

“Where *vetches*, pulse, and tares have stood.”

Your correspondent gives an apt quotation in favour of *fitch* being the original word. On the other hand, Johnson (*Dictionary*) declares this to be “a colloquial corruption of *vetch*,” and derives the latter from the Latin *vicia*, a term used both in Virgil and Ovid. The absence of any probable source from the Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Norman increases the probability as to its classic origin.

2. PILL, PILLING, PILLED.—Johnson derives this from the Latin *pellis*, a skin; but the A.S. *Pell*, a pall or cloak, *Pellen*, belonging to a pelt or skin, is the more correct source.

3. STELE is clearly the A.S. *Stela*, a stalk or handle. In the *Vision of Piers Ploughman*, written circ. A.D. 1362, we read—

“with a long *stela*.”

It is still in common use in many counties as *stale*, *stail*, or *steal*.

4. WERN.—An abbreviation of A.S. *waren*, or *waron*, were.

5. THIEL.—From the A.S. *thirel*, *thirl*, a hole. In later times altered to *thrill*, in which form it appears in the writings of Spenser, Shakespeare, and Milton.

6. STRAPPIN.—A term used all over England to signify a large, strong person. I have frequently heard in Derbyshire the phrase “Hoo’s a strappin wenoh.” Johnson reports it to be “used of large men and women in contempt,” but this is certainly not the meaning commonly attached to it. Its derivation is unknown. Grose (*Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*) places it under the head of Burlesque terms. It is probably of comparatively modern origin.

7. CLUNTISH.—According to Halliwell (*Dictionary*) *clunter* has in the North a variety of meanings, e.g., “to walk clumsily; a clod of earth; to turn lumpy as

some things do in boiling.” In Derbyshire, hob-nailed shoes are known as *cluntering shoon*, probably from the same origin as *clown*, which Johnson derives from the A.S. *lown*. *Clymp* (A.S.) in Thorpe’s *Codes Eboracensis* stands for lumpish.

8. KEG-MEG.—Evidently a provincial form of *Cag-Mag*, and signifies (Halliwell) “probably an old goose, but is applied to coarse bad food of any kind.” It is not mentioned by Johnson, but appears as an English word in Cooley’s *Dictionary* published in 1861. Although it looks like, and probably is, a burlesque term, it does not appear in Grose’s work. *Cag* and *Mag* are A.S. words, but bear no relation in meaning to the word now in use.

9. RUMPUS.—This is in common use throughout England. Although included in Grose’s burlesque terms, it comes evidently from the Latin *Rumpo*.

10. SCRATTLE, or its diminutive *scrat* (the older form) is a widespread provincialism for *scratch*. Both forms appear in Cooley’s *Dictionary*, but are absent from Johnson’s work. *Scrattle*—to scratch as fowls do, i.e., to disturb the earth, is a Cheshire provincialism given in Colonel Leigh’s valuable *Cheshire Glossary*. Johnson derives the word from the Dutch *kratsen*, but the more evident source is the A.S., *cratchen*, to scratch, farther strengthened by the following quotation from the vision of Piers Ploughman:—

“He myghte me *cracche* fro’ helle,
And with taseles (teasles) *cracched*.”

11. SLUDGE is a word in fairly common use for mud, and springs from the A.S. *slog*, a slough.

12. WETCHERED.—In Leigh its form is *wetshed* and *wetchet*. In Derbyshire *wetcherd* is used. Is a compound A.S. word from *wæt* or *wet*, and *scow* or *scow*, literally *wetshod*. “Wollewarde and wetchod,” i.e., miserable and wretched, appears in the *Vision of Piers Ploughman*.

Of the foregoing examples, eight are certainly of Anglo-Saxon origin, two of classical, and two burlesque terms of uncertain source. Five of the number (*thirl*, *strappin*, *cluntish*, *keg meg*, and *rumpus*) do not appear in Leigh’s *Cheshire Glossary*. Of these *thirl* and *cluntish* are the most important, and are perhaps more local in their habitat than any of the other ten examples, the majority of which belong to various districts.

In common with many other readers, I do hope that “G. H.” will continue his contributions of local words, and by inducing others to follow his example, further the work begun by Wilbraham, and carried on so recently and worthily by the late Col. Leigh, so that a future edition of the *Cheshire Glossary* may, through the medium of the CHESHIRE SHEAF, have its list of provincialisms—now rapidly passing away—greatly augmented.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

Queries.

[152] THE CHURCH'S MANSION, NANTWICH.

Many years ago I passed through the quaint old town of Nantwich on the top of a stage-coach. While the horses were in baiting, and my fellow-passengers refreshing themselves, I rambled about for a quarter of an hour to exercise my limbs. In the course of my walk, I came upon an old black and white house of very venerable character, which I find from my note-book of that day was called the CHURCH'S MANSION. Was this originally built for the Rectory house, and if so, does the present parson (who I am told is a bachelor) reside there?

L. L.

[153] ROMAN ALTAR AT OULTON.

In the year 1779, a Roman Altar was discovered in Watergate-street, and was carried off to Oulton Park, in the gardens of which it may very likely still exist; though on visiting the House three years ago, I could discover no trace of it. Perhaps, if courteously applied to, the present worthy baronet of Oulton would allow of its return to the old city, whose antiquaries I should think would be rejoiced to welcome it.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[154] LANCASHIRE WITHIN CHESHIRE.

[No. 36, 80.—May 15, June 5.]

In reporting the return visit of the Wirral farmers to the farmers of South Lancashire, the *Liverpool Mercury* of August 17th, 1855, says:—

"At Wilgrave Farm, occupied by Mr. Houghton, near Warrington, through whose land the River Mersey flows, a small tract of land was pointed out to us belonging to Cheshire, quite isolated from the rest of that county. It arose from Cromwell turning the course of the River Mersey to starve out the garrison of a place situated near, but now extinct."

There was a Roman station at Wilderspool adjoining to Warrington, the site of which is now accounted as part of Cheshire, but which was in Roman times in Lancashire, or rather on that side of the River Mersey.

L. L.

On the road from Staleybridge to Mossley, in Lancashire, is a spot called Sour Acre. This was once a sand-bank, round which the River Tame traversed as it flowed towards the Mersey near Stockport. This bank got locally the name of The Island, being a land-loop, and belonging wholly to Lancashire. It is the pro-

perty of Lord Stamford, and is now ordinarily known as "Caders." The loop was filled up in 1861 by a Mr. Joseph Charlesworth, who was afterwards in the employ of Mr. Leech, a wealthy manufacturer in Staleybridge.

Cork.

A. E. W. HOARE.

[155] MOCKBEGGAR HALL.

[Nos. 63, 79, 108.—May 29, June 5, 19]

This title was formerly given to the place now known as ALDFORD HALL, situate about half a mile south of Aldford, on the Farndon Road.

Its present name must have been applied during the whole of the current century, as no old inhabitant with whom I have conversed can remember its being called by any other. Lysons and Ormerod however both refer to it as MOCKBEGGAR HALL, and as the ancient seat of the Fittons and Gerards, whose chief residence was at Gawsworth.

It has been a large mansion of plain substantial type, two stories high, without gables or parapets, the roof of an equilateral pitch, and windows with short splayed stone mullions without transoms. The form is quadrilateral, with court yard, one side being now open.

The house contains large apartments, with stone floors, and all the woodwork is of old oak without feature. The place has for some time been occupied as a farm house, but is now in a very dilapidated condition, and only inhabited by the relic of the last tenant, and a bailiff's family: the land being farmed by the present landlord.

That it was formerly a residence of some pretensions cannot be doubted: and there exists on the land a Race Course, or training ground, upon which sports are said to have been held.

The site was well chosen, and splendid views of Welsh scenery are obtainable on the west side, with the river Dee gracefully running close below.

Saughton.

W. M. B.

[156] STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE.

[Nos. 90, 121, 146.—June 12, 26, July 10.]

Not the least appropriate place in the city for this royal STATUE would be the centre of the quadrangle in front of the Blue Coat Hospital, with which it would agree fairly well in date. Any way, it should not be lying buried in a Corporation store-yard. It should be remembered that this is not only the earliest statue we possess, but also the *only* royal one (save the very modest one at the Queen Hotel) of which our city can boast.

I suppose it is known, to the readers of Hanshall at all events, that JOHN TILSTON sculptured also the royal and city arms on the front of PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR, the beauty of which even now in their almost utter decay, is still very manifest.

A FREEMASON.

[157] CHESHIRE'S LOYAL ADDRESS TO GEORGE III.

[No. 116.—June 26]

Your correspondent "H." will find in the following excerpt, from a periodical of this very date, all the information needed:—

"**ROYAL COURAGE.**—A story of the attempt on the life of King George III. is worthy to be remembered. On May 15, 1800, the English Ministers received notice that an attempt would be made to assassinate the King, and advised him not to go to Drury Lane. George III. replied that he feared nothing. On arriving he took care to enter his box first, and as he did so a pistol shot was heard, and a bullet lodged in the ceiling. He turned and said to the Queen, who was behind him, "Stand back for a moment, they are burning some cartridges." He then advanced to the front of the box and, folding his arms, called aloud, "Now you may fire, if you like!" An appeal to the sentiment and admiration of a crowd always produces its effect. The audience rose to its feet like a single man and raised loud acclamations. After this he allowed his family to enter the box, saying, "Now there is no danger." Three times "God save the King" was sung, and Sheridan, who was present, added two new verses. When the King was complimented on his courage, he replied, "The life of a King is at the mercy of anyone who is willing to expose his own. I only performed the duty of my station."—*Family Herald*, June 29th, 1878."

The Temple.

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[158] OIL OF HAZEL.

[No. 127.—July 3.]

LUCY D. T.'s son has been the victim of an old schoolboy trick. It was played to our knowledge in Chester forty years ago, but under a somewhat different name,—*stirrup oil*, or *strap oil*. This is the *modus operandi*:—For the latter non-existent oil a lad is usually sent, armed with a penny, to a cobbler's stall, where he is pretty certain, especially about the first of April, to get a sound thrashing with the cobbler's strap, if he only contrives to get well within his reach. The like honour was intended for LUCY D. T.'s son, through the medium of the chemist's hazel stick.—EDITOR.

JULY 24, 1878.

Original Documents.

[159] ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

DECREE FOR THE REMOVAL OF RUSHES.

In Harleian MS., No. 2103, fo. 81, appears the following curious Order by the Visitors deputed by the Archbishop of York to enquire into the state of the Church of St. Oswald, and its fitness for the celebration of Divine Service therein:—

"27 August, 1633. At the City of Chester before the venerable men William Eadall, Doctor of Laws, Vicar General of the Most Reverend Father in Christ Richard, Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitan, Henry Wickham, S.T.P., Archdeacon of York, and John Cosin, S.T.P., Archdeacon of the East Riding, sitting as Commissioners of the said Archbishop, and in presence of me, Thomas Squire, junior, Notary Public.

"Upon which day appeared John Edwards, William Gregory, and Richard Warmincham, Churchwardens of the Parish of St. Oswald in the City of Chester. And forasmuch as that, upon A diligent view taken by the said Comission'rs of the said Church of St. Oswald, it did appeare unto them that the said Church was very undecent and unseemly, the stalls thereof being patched and peeceod and some broken, and some higher than other; and that the said Church was much defiled wth rushes and other filthiness. The said Comission'rs did order and enjoyn the said Churchwardens to cause the rushes and other filthines forthwth to bee taken out of the same Church; and to take p'sent Order that the Topps or peecees w^{ch} were added to some Stalls should bee taken downe, and these Stalls and the rest of the Stalls in the same Church should bee made uniforme and decent one yard in height and noe more, and that the same Stalls should bee decently flagged or boarded w^{thin}. And because the Comunion table there was found to bee undecent and unseemly, not befitting soe holy an use, they did Order and enjoyn the said Churchwardens to p'vide A decent and seemly table for the Comunion, and likewise to pave or flagge the Isle w^{ch} they call their Quire, wherein the Co'ion table standeth; and that the seats adjoining to the wall beynd the Comunion Table bee removed & taken away and the communion Table sett upp close to the wall. And that a decent Raile wth Pillasters bee made, one yard in height, reaching from the Comanion Table to the pillar against w^{ch} the pulpit leaneth, and soe from that pillar to the other pillar ouer against that, and soe up to the Comunion Table againe. And lastely, forasmuch as yt did appeare that divers sumes of money were and are arreare both to theis churchwardens now being and to the former churchwardens; they enjoyned that A Cessment should bee made both for raising of the monies arreare, and for p'vidinge of such ornaments and necessities as are enjoined. Further adding that all the scutehions in the same church should forthwth bee taken downe, requiring the churchwardens aforesaid to p'vide A convenient seate in the same church for Mrs. Salisbury, wife of Fulke Salisbury, alderman, to sitt, kneele, and heare divine service and sermons. Willing and commanding them to certifie of the performance hereof, upon Friday next after the feast of St. Mathewe the Apostle next coming, in the Consistory place w^{thin} the Cathedrall Church of Chester.

Concordat } THO. SQUIRE.
cum Decreto } Notar: Publicus.

"Time ys ginen for the certifying hereof untill Friday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel next coming.

[Endorsed.] "27 August, 1633. Order of the visitors to cause the rushes to bee taken out of the Church of St. Oswald's, & to make the stables vniforme."

Notting Hill Gate, London.

R. M. B.

[Mr. Fulke Salisbury, alderman of Chester, for whose wife's snug accommodation in St. Oswald's Church such special care was taken in the award, was a brother of the Mercers' and Ironmongers' Company, and sheriff of Chester city in 1617. He left the corporation before attaining the civic chair, and it is to be presumed he at the same date quitted Chester also, for his will was certainly not proved in the Bishop's court there. He was certainly a cadit, if not ultimately the representative, of a Welsh family of distinction.—ED.]

Notes.

[160] THE BRERETONS OF ASHLEY.

This old Cheshire family, a cadet of the BRERETONS OF BRERETON, from which parent stock it branched off in the reign of Henry VII., obtained the estate of ASHLEY by a marriage with Thomazine, daughter and heiress of George Ashley, of Ashley, Esq., whose ancestors had possessed it in the 11th century.

Sir Peter Leycester, in his *Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred*, 1673, whose own copy, largely annotated by his well-known hand is in my possession, gives a good pedigree of these Ashley Breretons, which Dr. Ormerod, in his *History of Cheshire*, Vol. I., copies almost without comment. In this printed pedigree the main male line ends in three co-heiresses on the death of Thomas Brereton, Esq., without issue, in 1660. The inference any one would draw from all this is that the male line of the BRERETONS OF ASHLEY became extinct at the Restoration; but that this was not so is proved by Sir Peter Leycester himself, in his MS. additions to my copy of his *Historical Antiquities*. He there shows that besides the two sons John, who died infants, there was—

"Also another John Brereton, son of George Brereton, of Ashley, Esq., baptized at Bowdon, June 20, 1576; he was afterwards Sir John Brereton, Knight, the King's Serient at Law in Ierland, but dyed without issue: whose widow married the Lord Chiefe Justice Brameton. Sir John left all his Personall estate, which was greate, to his widow, and to Sidney Colledge in Cambridge, where he was educated, and to Randle Brereton, his youngest Brother: which Randle lived in London, and

married, and had issue a daughter, married to Mr. Bourchir of Gloucestershire, and also a Son, called Randle Brereton, who hath an estate in Lincolnshire, and is the onely heire-male of the family of the Breretons of Ashley now remayninge, 1672."

T. HUGHES.

[161] HILBREE TO DUBLIN IN 1566.

A hundred and twenty years before the KING'S GAP at HOYLAKES became celebrated as the place where the army of William III. embarked for Ireland in 1690, it would appear that passengers for that kingdom made directly across the sands at low water for the little Island of HILBREE, off which almost-desolate rock the vessels usually rode at anchor that were to convey them across the channel. Many a story has been told of the inconveniences and delays, the annoyances and perils, of that often tiresome passage: but probably few experiences in that line could well have been more tantalising than that one, the substance of which we are here enabled to give from the *Autobiography of Sir Henry Sidney*, reviewed in *Bentley's Magazine* for February, 1859. It appears that

"Sir Henry Sidney having been appointed Chief Governor of Ireland by Queen Elizabeth, arrived at Chester on the 24th November, 1566, accompanied by his wife, the admirable sister of Leicester, on his way to his new government. On the 3rd of December the distinguished voyagers were at Hilbree; and they make from there the old complaint of that time, "no wind for Ireland," adding that they were "never so weary of any place, and can get neither meat, drink, nor good lodging." The wind continuing unfavourable, they reached no farther, on the 17th December, than Beaumaris, having "passed thirty days flitting from place to place on the coast!" Some barks put to sea with their horses and furniture; but one of these tiny transports was wrecked, to the loss of £500 worth of Sydney's goods. On the 9th January the wind-bound Viceroy was at Holyhead, enjoying great likelihood of a fair breeze." Their destination was not reached until the 21st, so that they lost two months in a journey which one day now suffices for."

T. T.

[162] WREXHAM ANCIENT ORGAN.

It is said, in veritable history, that previous to the time of the Commonwealth the largest ORGAN in England, if not in Europe, was to be found in the Parish Church of Wrexham. Is there any local record of its existence; any description of it in Welsh or English by a contemporary or later writer?

I may say that it is mentioned by Camden in his *Britannia*, and by Fuller in his *Worthies of Denbighshire*. He says:—"The organs at Wrexham were formerly most famous for beauty, bigness, and tuneableness." In Fletcher's comedy of "The Custom of the Country" he introduces a Welshman who boasts—

"The organs at Rixham were made by Revelation, And there's a Spirit blows and blows the bellows, and then they sing."

It is said that this great organ was pulled to pieces and destroyed by the Parliamentary soldiers, who sold the pipes for a trifle to buy a drink. . Where can this fact be found recorded? A writer in *Notes and Queries* states that in the MSS. of E. Lloyd, now in the Bodleian Library, there is a note by him to this effect—"Here (at Wrexham), was at the time of the Civil War, a very extraordinary organ, which the clerk compared to that at St. Peter's at Rome," i.e., which he supposed to be at St. Peter's; as the largest church in Christendom would naturally be supposed to have the largest organ, but, in fact, there is no organ in St. Peter's. The canons of the Church of Rome do not allow an organ to be used "Coram Pontifice," and only elsewhere, "propter carnales fideles et imperfectos."

Mollington.

G. B. B.

[163] COMBERMERE ABBEY, CHESHIRE.

There was a strange tendency to corruption and default in most of the religious foundations of mediæval days. Sometimes it was inordinate thirst for riches and power; at others, reckless extravagance and its attendant evils; now, a season of over-indulgence and often of immorality; then, a period of Ishmaelitic rule, when the abbot's or prior's hand was against every other hand, and when most other men's hands were angrily raised against his.

Such was, at intervals, the general experience all over the country; and the ancient ABBEY OF COMBERMERE formed no exception to the rule. A document preserved in the Public Record Office, and which had for centuries revelled in dust and disorder in the muniment room of Chester Castle, gives us a slight peep into the condition of the ABBEY in the 12th year of Henry IV., A.D. 1412.

It appears from the mere abstract which has met my eye that the Abbot and convent had become reduced to a state of impecuniosity and collapse, in consequence of the mismanagement and other abuses of previous heads of that house; and that they were compelled to throw themselves at this date on the sympathy and generosity of the King for some relief from the pressure. Accordingly, Henry, Prince of Wales (afterwards Henry V.), acting no doubt in right of his Earldom of Chester,—on its being proved to his satisfaction that the said ABBEY was almost hopelessly in debt, so far as any power rested in the convent to extricate itself, determined to interfere for its relief.

He sets forth in his royal charter that the burden of debt is such that if they are compelled at once to face these obligations, the brethren must of necessity starve during the process. He commands, therefore, that the ABBEY and its beggared resources be forthwith taken into his own hands, and that his Chamberlain and Escheator of Cheshire shall strictly administer the same, for the gradual payment of the debts, and for the proper sustenance meanwhile, of the Abbot and his

fraternity, now fully taken into the protection of the Prince. With these two great officers of the Palatinate, three others, Roger Leche, Constable of Flint Castle,—Hugh Mortymer, a royal commissioner for pardons,—and John Knyghtley, Justice of Chester, were on the 14th of July, 1413, legally associated; their duties being defined under the royal writ "to hold the Abbey and its lands in their safe custody, and to manipulate the same for the benefit of the Abbot and convent, now all but ruined by the bad rule and other mismanagement of former abbots." It is evident from the Cheshire Records that the curing of this virulent sore was a work of considerable time,—some of the irate creditors giving meanwhile no end of trouble to the Abbot and his royal protectors.

It is right to add that there is no mention of this Commission, or of the excesses that gave rise to it, in the account of COMBERMERE ABBEY in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*.

T. H.

Queries.

[164] LORD CHANCELLOR EGERTON.

Twenty years ago, while spending a pleasant day at Dodelston in this county, I strayed into the old church, and there saw one or two imposing monuments to members of the family of the celebrated Thomas Egerton, Viscount Brackley, Earl of Ellesmere, and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. Since that visit, a new church has, I believe, taken the place of the ancient one. I should be glad, therefore, to know whether those two historic monuments were preserved,—and whether they have been accorded a place in the new church?

W. E.

[165] THE MAYOR'S BAMBOO.

Under the *old* Corporation, and at its and starts under the *new*, the Mayor of Chester's Porter has been armed on state occasions with a stalwart BAMBOO CANE, flourished before his Worship in the procession in very demonstrative fashion. What is known of this Bamboo, and how long has it formed part of the Corporate insignia?

L. L.

[166] FORESTS OF MARA AND MONDREM.

The Forest of Dslamere originally comprised two distinct royal forests under separate and independent foresters appointed by the Crown. Is it possible now to distinguish where Mara ended, and where Mondrem began?

G. T.

[167] ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

Was there ever a Church under this dedication in the old city? If so, within which of the present local parishes was it situated? I can find no mention of it in Hemingway's *History of Chester*.

L. L.

[168] THE CORONATION EAGLE AT CHESTER.

One of our modern historians (I thought it was Froude, but cannot now trace it in any of his printed works) states that the golden vase containing the miraculous oil used at the coronations of English monarchs, was at one time preserved in Chester Castle, and from thence passed direct to the charge of the Crown. What were the circumstances of this important transfer,—and on whose authority does the story rest?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[169] THE ABBOT'S WELL, CHRISTLETON.

From this once famous WELL water was brought by the monks of Chester Abbey in the 12th or 13th century for the better supply of the Abbot and his convent. Does this Well still exist, and in what part of Christleton does it lie? I have visited that locality for weeks at a time in days long gone by, but cannot remember to have ever seen this ancient Well.

Macclesfield.

SENEX.

Replies.

[170] STRANGE FISH TAKEN IN THE DEE.

[No. 19.—May 8.]

In Harleian MSS. No. 1929 (one of the Randle Holme collection) is the following entry:—

"June 23, 1659, a great fish the length of 3 yards was taken upon the Sands in Saltney, after this forme—The fins on it back, taile, and under it belly of the same substance of the fish, the colour on the back is black and shining like unto iet, and the belly very whit."

It is difficult to form an opinion from the sketch accompanying the description as to what kind of fish was meant, but it is probably intended for one of the Shark tribe.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[171] ROSEMARY AT FUNERALS.

[Nos. 22, 92.—May 8, June 12.]

The ancients regarded ROSEMARY as we do the "Forget-me-not," and wore it at weddings. In a sonnet of 1584 we find

Rosemary is for remembrance
Between us day and night;
Wishing that I might always have
You present in my sight.

Rosemary is fragrant, something like incense, and has been generally regarded as a disinfectant. For these reasons it has also come to be used at funerals.

Cambrian View.

E. HOPKINS.

[172] WHITEWASH IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.

[Nos. 52, 95.—May 22, June 12.]

The reply sent by B. LL. V. to this Query has reminded us of a somewhat similar experience at the fine old church of ST. JOHN'S, Chester. At the time of its Restoration, under the auspices of the late Marquis of Westminster, many Norman fragments of capitals, &c., parts of the original church of Bishop Peter, were found in the excavations. These were covered with lime-wash, which may still be traced upon them in their present resting-place, the crypt, usually known as the Chapter-house.

At the same period, a small chapel was discovered and cleared out on the west side of the south transept, which contained an aumbry, piscina, &c. The east wall of this chapel was at the time noticed to retain the original whitewash, which was in this instance prettily dotted with fleurs-de-lis in vermilion stencil work, all which unfortunately perished soon after its exposure to the atmosphere.

EDITOR.

[173] MOCKBEGGAR HALL.

[Nos. 63, 79, 108, 155.—May 29, June 5, 19, July 17.]

I find by reference to the new edition of Ormerod's *Cheshire* that the two lighthouses at Leasowe were formerly known as the Higher and Lower Mockbeggar Lights: this had reference probably less to the HALL of that name than to the Mockbeggar sandbank in the offing, hinted at by your valued contributor, and former fellow-citizen,—Dr. BRUSHFIELD.

L. L.

[174] ARMS OF THE DEANERY OF CHESTER.

[No. 85.—June 12.]

Mr. W. E. BROWN's engraving of the Chester DEAN AND CHAPTER SEAL is quite authentic, except that he has inadvertently used the term 'Arms' in describing it. The original matrix is of the date of the Reformation, and of rather a low order of art—possibly the work of a local craftsman. It is still used in sealing the Chapter Leases and high official documents, and is usually kept in an old oak press in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. There is a wood engraving of the SEAL in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, vol. 1, taken from a drawing contributed to the first edition of this work by the Very Rev. H. Cholmondeley, a former Dean of the Cathedral.

G. T.

[175] ANCIENT STONE AT GRESFORD.

[Nos. 103, 147.—June 19, July 10.]

Your correspondent W. T. P., in his reply (No. 147 of the SHEAF), gives us the Welsh derivations of GRESFORD, to which, as an Englishman, I can make no objection; but at the same time it somewhat upsets an explanation which has, time upon time, been given to me, as to Gresford and all other places in the immediate neighbourhood of Chester having "ford" as a

termination. The common explanation, for I believe it is widely known among the residents, is that all such places, at some time or other more or less remote (when bridges were not so numerous and roads so well kept as of late), "have been fords." And this seems the more probable, as all the following places are situated on small rivers or brooks, viz.:—Gresford, Marford, Pulford, Aldford, Backford, Trafford, Stapleford, &c. Now from several sources I have heard that Gresford meant a green or grassy ford, *gress* being the pronunciation in this part of the country for *grass*; Pulford, a difficult and hard ford, where the river widened out into a pool; Backford, from the tidal waters backing up, and so preventing the crossing of a no doubt ancient river near this place. I own this is a popular explanation, but perhaps W. T. P., or other equally as good an authority, will kindly give us a correct derivation of all these places. I might have mentioned several other places in Cheshire having the same termination, but the above will be sufficient to test W. T. P.'s remark. I may add that GRESFORD is spelt GRETFOED in the *Domesday Book* of King William II., and that this is, so far as I know, the earliest known authority.

Chester.

J. B. D., Jr.

[176] CHESHIRE'S LOYAL ADDRESS TO
GEORGE III.

[No. 116, 157.—June 26, July 17.]

The *Family Herald*, of June 29, merely copied a paragraph that had been "going the round of the papers" a week or two earlier. Under the heading of "Curiosities of History" *Notes and Queries*, of July 6, pointed out what an exaggerated account this was, and gave a truer, but tamer version from the *Annual Register* of 1800. This I could copy, only I take it your province is chiefly to record the doings of Cheshire, and I merely refer to the subject to correct the romance of history quoted by MR. WILBRAHAM JONES.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

JULY 31, 1878.

Original Documents.

[177] A CHESTER COMMON COUNCILLOR IN
DISGRACE.

It is a common notion in the public mind that the brawls we sometimes read of, as adorning recent debates in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, had no place in the experience of our predecessors. But that the ancient "fathers of the city" were not at all times a happy family, the following Order, taken from the CORPORATION ASSEMBLY BOOK of the 7th of February, 1608, in the mayoralty of William Gamull, Esq., will pretty clearly set forth:—

"AT WHICH ASSEMBLIE, It was openly declared that Robert Berrie, m'chant, one of the Common Counsell of the same Citie, had latelie boughte within the same Citie to and for his owne private Commoditie of one Andrewe Taylor, a merchant stranger, Seaventye and Sixe tonnes of gascoigne wyne, w'ch latelie arryved at the said citie from the p'tes behinde the Seas upon thadventure of the said m'ch'te stranger, before such tyme as the same wyne were offered to be sould to the Maior of the said Citie as a Common bargaine for the gen'all good and benefite of the Citie, As the same oughte to have bene by sondrie good and laudable auncient Orders in that behalf in the same citie heretofore made, provided, and from tyme to tyme Contynually used in the same Citie accordingly.

"And the said Rob'te Berrie beinge then pr'sente at the same assemblee, and being Called to aunswere the said Contempts and offence committed, and demanded what he could saie in excuse of the same defaulte in the pr'miss's, Did in open Assemblee Confesse the buyinge of the said wyne as was alleadged againste him, But shewed noe reason nor any thinge materiall to excuse his said contempts, as the same Assembly then conceived: upon consideration whereof, and for that the same assemblee then conceived that the said Robert Berrie had broken the said aunciente orders made in the said Citie as afforesaid, in Contempts of the Magistracye of the said Citie, and soe consequently des'ved to be punished for his offence, the rather for that he, beinge one of the Councell of the said Citie, woulde p'sume to geve soe badd an example to others, Therefore it is ordered by the said assemblee, that the said Rob'te Berrie for his said offence be fyned in the somme of ffortye powndes, and shall paie the same to the use of the said Citie at or before the feaste daie of the Annuntiation of blessed Marye the virgine nexte cominge, withoute anie mitigation.

"And it is further ordered that whereas the nowe Sherriffes of the said Citie, by Command of the Maior of the same Citie, Have Seized and taken into their hands twee hoggsheads of the said wyne as goods forfeited, for that the same wyne beinge enshoured and Selled in this Citie, were not firste entered in the Pentice of the same Citie, and the Cities Custome due for the same firste paid, as oughte to have bene, That the same wyne, notwithstandinge the said Seisure, shalbe redelivered unto the said Berrye, if he will receive the same; And it is further ordered that the said Maior and Citizens shall save harmeles the said Sherriffes and either of them against the said Taylor and Berrye for the Seisure of the same wyne, and for all charges arrysinge by reason of the same.

"And whereas at the same Assemblee it was made knowne unto the said Robert Berrie, howe he was censured in the pr'mises, and that the same assemblee had fined him in xl. li., he the said Robert Berrie, shewinge great passion of anger and malice, uttered forth against the Maior of the said Citie and Mr. Edmund Gamull, Ald'n, verie undutifull

undecent speeches to have been uttered against a Magistrate, as namely, in saying that "what was done against him proceeded of their inveterate malice towards him," and other like evil words. Therefore it is ordered that the said Rob'te Berrye for such his uncivill and unduttyfull demeanor is, by a gen'all Consente of the whole assembly, Committed to the prison of the Northgate in the same Citie."

The old custom of the port of Chester, which Berrie had, in the foregoing proceedings, so openly set at nought, may be explained in a few words. Whenever a foreign ship arrived at the port, the cargo not having been assigned to any resident merchant, the owner and captain were treated as private adventurers: the Mayor was therefore empowered, within so many hours after the vessel's arrival, to bargain direct for the cargo, and then either by retail, or by private re-sale to the city merchants, turn a profitable penny for the use of the city exchequer. Berry was evidently in rebellion against this custom of the city and port: hence it was that, at the close of the day's proceedings, he found himself a prisoner in the city gaol at the Northgate. What followed upon this shall be told in a future number of the SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

[178] BLACK FRIARS MONASTERY, CHESTER.

This mendicant house was on the south side of Watergate-street, its lands extending from Nicholas-street to the City Walls, and southwards to St. Martin's Ash. It was a Royal Foundation, as we clearly gather from the text of the following Charter, granted by King Richard II., enabling the Friars to have their corn, &c., ground toll-free for ten years at the KING'S MILLS, adjoining the OLD BRIDGE.

"RICHARD, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, To all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting. Know ye that of our special grace, We have of our charity granted to our well-beloved in Christ the Prior and brethren of the house of the Order of Preachers in our city of Chester, which said house exists there by the foundation of our progenitors, that they shall have leave to grind all the corn and grain needed for their sustenance at our MILLS at Chester, free from all toll and customs payable at the same Mills, for ten years next to come. In testimony of which thing, We have caused these our letters to be made patent, and to endure for the time aforesaid. Witness ourself at Westminster, the twentyfifth day of February in the 7th year of our reign."

This document we recently copied from the original at the Public Record Office, London, where it is enrolled amongst hundreds of others of great local interest and importance among the *Recognizances* taken in the once powerful Exchequer Court of Cheshire, A.D. 1384.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[179]

NORTON PRIORY.

The Chapel of this religious house is said to have contained a handsome ORGAN, which was sold, at the time of the Dissolution of the Priory, to the neighbouring Church of Great Budworth, where it was erected, and used in the parochial services there. The case of the instrument remained in the Church down to the date of the Restoration; what became of the Organ itself will be best seen from Sir Peter Leycester's statement, taken from his *Antiquities of Bucklow Hundred*, page 227:—

"In this church is yet the case of a fair Organ, having the coats of arms of Warburton of Arley, Leycester of Tabley, and Merbury of Merbury, carved thereon. These Organs (as Tradition hath it) came from Norton, bought after the Dissolution of that Priory; and were in good order, till the Pipes thereof were taken out and spoiled by the Parliamentary Soldiers in the late War, 1647, which some Scotchmen among them called—Whistles in a Box." A MS. note in my copy adds "Since ye restauracon of K. Charles ye 2d, there is a new paire of Organs set up." G. T.

[180] A FASHIONABLE BREAKFAST IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

On turning over an old Album formerly belonging to my mother, I came upon the enclosed. You may think it worthy a corner in THE SHEAF:—

"A TAVERN BILL FROM A LANDLORD IN THE GOOD CITTIE OF CHESTER.

"Breakfast provisions for Syr Godfrey Walton, the good Ladie Walto., and their fair daughter Gabriel.

"3 lbs of Saved Salmon
2 lbs of boiled Mutton and Onions
3 Slices of Porke
6 Red Herrings
6 lbs of Leavened Bread
One Choppin of Mead
5 Choppings of Strong Beer."

Gresford Bank.

T. O. W.

[181] LEVYING THE INCOME TAX.

The following paragraph from a Chester paper of 1807 would make us to suppose that the Income Tax was no more popular in the early days of its existence than it is now. We are told there that—"A collector of the Income Tax lately called upon his Cheshire neighbour for the sum levied upon him, agreeably to the Act of Parliament, which he distinctly refused to pay; the officer took the extraordinary method of recovering it by actually stripping him from top to toe, leaving him to enjoy the cooling breezes of our happy climate in the dress of an American Negro!"

Croeswylas, Oswestry.

A. E.

Queries.

[182] CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

I am endeavouring to form as complete a list as I am able of CENTENARIANS belonging to Cheshire, for subsequent insertion in *THE SHEAF*, thinking them well worthy a place in the list of notabilities of the county. To this end I should be glad if any names of such and of the localities where they resided, with any references to books containing notices of them, were sent to me direct. I am aware that several are mentioned in Easton's *Human Longevity*.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[183] ST. AGANIPPA.

Can you give any information as to Saint AGANIPPA? There is a WELL near here, dedicated to her, of pure spring water, but I do not think it has ever been popularly credited with any healing properties.

Newton.

H.

[184] GOD'S GARDEN.

On one of the ancient churches of Cheshire there is, or was, an open space, locally known as "GOD'S GARDEN." This fact I gather from a memorandum now before me, written in an old hand, which does not, however, name the particular church. Perhaps one of your many correspondents may know, and would oblige me by stating, the whereabouts of this "Garden." I should be wishful to learn, moreover, whether more than one church in this county has been dignified in this way. Personally I can say that I have never before met with the same.

L. L.

[185] A WELSH PEARL IN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

It was stated at a London jeweller's shop the other week, in my hearing, that one of the leading pearls in the royal crown of England is a *bona-fide* native of Wales. Can this strangely-sounding fact be in any way substantiated?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[186] TAPESTRY IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

When looking at the careful arrangement of Monuments which is now taking place in the South Transept of the Cathedral, the question occurred to my mind,—Where is the piece of TAPESTRY once familiar to my eye? And where is it in future to be hung? Cannot some authentic information now be obtained, too, as to the manufacture and date of the TAPESTRY, and when and by whom it was given to the Cathedral?

Northenden.

E. L. Y. D.

Replies.

[187] CHAPEL IN CHESTER CASTLE.

[No. 37—May 15.]

Out of the nine coats of arms "in the chappell where the Castell standeth," as enumerated by T. H., Nos. 3, 5, 7, and 9 have no place in Papworth's *Ordinary of British Armoriale*, an invaluable work of reference to all genealogists. Of the remainder, No. 1 was borne by Bullen or Bollens, co. Lincoln, and by Chamberlayne; No. 2, by Banastre, Bold, Langton, and Singleton, co. Lancaster; No. 4, by Marbrook and Montford; No. 6, by Grey; No. 8, by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Coventry, Lichfield, and Chester.

The families represented by these arms were most probably connected with judges, chamberlains, or other chief officers of the PALATINATE COURT or of the CASTLE.

G. T.

[188] ARMS OF THE DEANERY OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 85, 174.—June 12, July 24]

We have to-day been permitted, by the courtesy of the Chapter Clerk, to inspect the brass matrix and counter-seal, to the former of which MR. WM. E. BROWN'S Query more particularly alludes. Had our friendly contributor, G. T., been like favoured with ourselves, it is possible he would have somewhat modified a remark in his last week's reply (No. 174), viz: that the Seal was "of a low order of art."

We are of opinion that the matrix is from the hand of a superior, perhaps even the royal, medallist; for there is much feeling and character in the design, and the execution is both vigorous and artistic. The background forms a sort of baldochino, within which stands the Angel with a cruciform halo, but without wings. It may possibly be intended for a figure of Christ. He is addressing the Virgin from a long scroll held in the left hand. The authority quoted by Mr. W. E. BROWN gives AVE MARIA as the legend upon the scroll; but, after close inspection, we are enabled to state positively that the actual words are SALVE . SCT. PARENC (? Parens), which may be translated, "Hail, Holy Mother!"—a very sufficient evidence of the early date of the Seal.

The inscription round the design reads as follows:—" + SIGILLV + COMUNE + CATHED + ECCLESIE + XPI + ET + BEATE + MARIE + CESTRIE + 1541," i.e., "The Common Seal of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Mary of Chester, 1541." This is in every way a very interesting relic of the great period of transition from the old religion to the new; and it is, as it ought to be, very jealously guarded by the Chapter authorities.

The counter-seal, if indeed it was ever originally intended to be such, exhibits Henry VIII. sitting royally robed on his throne under a canopy, holding in his right hand a sceptre and in his left the orb. Two saints are seen standing, one on each side; and over them are the initials H. E. in monogram, and the numeral 8. At his feet, in the exergue are two figures kneeling, with the letters H.B. between, and behind them the letters D.C., meaning, perhaps, "Dean and Chapter," or D.G., for DEI GRATIA. There is also a V between one of the figures and the King;—this may perhaps be but the initial of the die-sinker's name. The inscription round this counter-seal is almost entirely illegible, with the exception of the last words, which look to us like D. and GRACIA: but the letters have, we feel certain, been intentionally defaced at a very early date, probably as being objectionable to the then ruling powers. The quality of work upon this second Seal is in no sense to be compared with that upon its companion: the latter may be pretty safely regarded as of metropolitan, and the former as of local and much inferior execution.

It is evident that the two Seals were executed at different times; for the colour of one resembles that of brass, while the other seems to be of copper. Our judgment would lead us to the belief that both have been used as independent Seals by the Chapter, but which is really the older of the two is a point not now easy to determine. EDITOR.

[189] STATUE OF QUEEN ANNE.

[Nos. 90, 121, 146.—June 12, 26, July 10.]

I rejoice that certain of your correspondents are anxious for the resurrection of Queen Anne's STATUE; for I, too, in my boyhood used to regard it with reverence, as it occupied its niche in front of the old EXCHANGE. I recently sought out and visited Her Majesty in her present oblivion, and am happy to say I found her in good condition, save and except the mutilation of her right hand, incapacitating her for holding her golden sceptre. For this and other reasons, I respectfully object to her being placed in the Market Square or any other exposed situation, lest worse things happen to her. With the utmost deference, I think her proper place would be that home of the antique and historical, our Water Tower Museum, where other relics of the Old Exchange have preceded her, and where she would be well preserved and surrounded, besides adding to the attractions of the Museum, so heartily appreciated by strangers and foreigners, and so strangely neglected by our citizens.

CURATOR.

I suppose your correspondents on this subject have satisfied themselves that the present STATUE is the original one put up during her Majesty's reign that then was? I have heard just a whisper that a new Statue was erected in place of the old one during the

restoration of the EXCHANGE just prior to its destruction by fire. We must mind we don't worship a spurious deity!

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[We cannot allow this whispered heresy to go abroad without giving it instant contradiction. We have personally examined the Statue in the Corporation store-yard, and can unhesitatingly pronounce it genuine, even without further evidence. We have, however, just read for ourselves the Articles of Agreement between Thomas Hughes, of Aldford, contractor, and Edward Roberts, Treasurer of the City of Chester, for repairing and restoring the old Town Hall, dated 26th October, 1852, Benjamin Baylis, Architect. The items concerning this question run thus:—

"The Statue of Queen Anne to be restored, painted, and regilt, and securely fixed to the Building by a Copper Bar one inch square, with nuts and screws; also the Pedestal the Statue rests upon, and the Moulding around the Niche."

In addition to this documentary evidence, we have the assurance of gentlemen who were Members of the Committee which had charge of the Repairs at the time, that the above clause in the Agreement was strictly carried out.—EDITOR.]

[190] CHESHIRE PROVERBS.

[No. 99.—June 19.]

Your correspondent G. T. quotes a Proverb as once current in the curriers' trade at Chester:—"Score thrice, before you cut once." He will be interested, perhaps surprised, to learn that I have just met with another text of the Proverb in an out-of-the-way little book, entitled "*Turkish Proverbs translated into English*—Venice, printed in the two languages at the Armenian Monastery of St. Lazarus, 1873." It occurs at No. 51 of the series, and is thus rendered by the translator,—"Measure a thousand times, but cut once." It seems, therefore, quite possible that our Chester curriers of the 17th century imported their Proverb from our allies the Turks.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

PETER PINDAR.

[No. 141.—July 10.]

The following "Query" in BYE-GONES of June 19, will form a reply to your correspondent, "L. L.":

"Near the south side of the chancel of Llanymynech Church is an inscription on a marble tablet, as follows:—"Here lyeth the body of Charles Pindar, Esquire, second son of Sir Peter Pindar, of Edinshaw, in ye county of Chester, Baronnet, Barrister at Law of ye Inner Temple, London, Recorder of ye Ancient Corporation of Great Wenlock, in ye County of Salop, who died Aug. 30, 1692, in ye three and thirtieth year of his age." The wording of the inscription is certainly ambiguous, implying in the former portion that the father was the barrister and recorder, a supposition the age of Charles appears to support. He is said to have died while on a visit to Sir Thomas Jones, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who then resided at Correhova Hall. What

is known of the Pindar family, and of this Charles and Peter Pindar, and also of his friend Sir Thomas Jones? The communion plate of the church was presented by Thomas Jones; can any reader say whether it was his friend Sir Thomas or another person?"

I may remark that the gentleman who contributed the above to BYE-GONES is writing a History of Llanymynech parish for the *Montgomeryshire Collections* of the "Powysland Club"; so would, I am sure, be glad of any further particulars that may be gleaned in the CHESHIRE SHEAF.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

AUGUST 7, 1878.

Original Documents.

[192] A CHESTER EARLY WILL.

One of the very earliest Wills now existing at Chester is one proved eleven years before the independent see of Chester was erected by Henry VIII. It is the last testament of a local tradesman, THOMAS CROUGHTON by name, whose latest descendants will be remembered by many an old citizen whose eye falls upon this No. of the CHESHIRE SHEAF. It runs as follows:—

"20th Oct., 1530, before William Wall, chaplain, and deputy M^r official in the Collegiate Church of St. John's at Chester. On which day appeared the Executors, and exhibited the following Testament with Inventory, under seal of the Deanery of Wirrall.

"In Dei no^{is}, Amen. I thomas croughton, payntre, w^{tin} ye cite off chestr, holle of mynd & seke in body, i' this forme & man' foloying my last testame't & Will in the zere off o'r lord a m^{ccccc} & xxx, do make. In p^{mis} I bequeath my soule to almychty god, o'r blessed laydy, & to all ye holy companie of heuen, and my body to be buret w^{tin} ye p^{ych} church off sanct oswalde. Also, I will that y'r be made a p^{ncipal} [a mortuary to the priest], & iiij tapers off wax at my beriall. Also, I bequeath to sanct franc^s w^{tin} ye gray freis a taper of wax. Also, to the alter of sanct oswalde w^{tin} ye exempt monastery off sanct Wurbur on other taper off wax. Also, apon ye day off my buriall, I will to be sayd a trentall of masses. Also, I will my detts holly be payd off my holle gude, Wyth payd, the residue to be equally divided between my Wiffe & my chyldren. Also, I will my Wyffe, & Will'm francis [her] brother be my executors, Syr John Smyth & William Hoole, m^{chand}, be my ou'seers for the p^{miss}'s to be fulfilled & accompleased. In wittenez whereoff I this my last will & mind, Will'm barbur, & Alex^r Dicknes w^t other moe beying p^{sent}, do faythfully & substantially make and cause to be made."

It will be noticed that this Will was proved at the then Cathedral or Collegiate Church of St. John's, while as yet ST. WERBURGH'S was an ABBEY in full swing, and while the coming onslaught of King Hal was probably all undreamt of by either civilian or ecclesiastic.

The William Wall, before whom the Will was proved, was at the time a Prebendary of St. John's, and serving the altar of one of the many chapels included within that Church. At the Dissolution he was transferred to the new Cathedral of St. Werburgh as Prebendary of the First Stall, and died in 1574. Sir John Smith, one of the overseers of the Will, was a priest serving, up to 1541, at the altar of the Fraternity of St. George at Chester.

EDITOR.

[193] DOD FAMILY OF SHOCKLACH.

TESTAMUR OF DESCENT.

The following curious genealogical document, apparently compiled for the first Randle Holme, herald painter, has been found among his *Heraldic Collections concerning Chester*, in Harl. MS. 2119, p. 121. It will illustrate the pedigree of a Cheshire family to which one of your correspondents (T. O W., in CHESHIRE SHEAF, No. 137) recently drew attention. The certificate, which is signed by the heads of the two families of Dod of Edge and Dod of Shocklach, runs as follows:—

"Whereas HUGH DOD of benington in the County of Cambridge, one of the clarkes of the Alienation Office in the Inner temple in london hath requested vs his kinsmen, whos names are underwritten, to signifie how the said Hugh is descended from our howses, and branched from our famyley of the DODS of EDGE and SHOCKLICH in the County of Chester: To satisfie his desire herein, we thought good to expresse the same, and doe herby signifie and declare unto all whom it may concerne, that the sayd Hugh Dod is sonne of Thomas Dod of boughton, by the City of Chester; w^{ch} Thomas was sonne and heyre to Edward Dod of the same place, sonne to Edward Dod of Shocklich greene, younger brother to David Dod, of Shocklich, sonne and heyre to David Dod of the same place. W^{ch} David was sonne to David Dod of Shocklich aforesaid, and brother to John Dod, of Ege, esq^r; begott and lawfully begot, as by his pedegree branched from vs more fully may appere; in witnesse herof we have herunto sett to our hands, the xth day of July, and in the xijth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles, by the grace of God Kinge of Englande, France & Irland, defender of the faith, etc., An. dⁿⁱ. 1635.

THOMAS DOD de Shocklach,	EDWARD DOD de Edge,
sacrae theolo: p ^{fessor} ,	in Com. Cestr,
Decanus de Rippon.	Armiger."

A pedigree drawn by Randle Holme, and agreeing with the foregoing certificate, accompanies the original document in the British Museum.

The Temple.

B. WILBRAHAM JONES.

Notes.

[194] ANN BLOW AT CHESTER.

From the printed CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS, Domestic Series, of the reign of Charles II., 1666-7, I glean the following interesting details relative to Chester, and the visit paid to it in 1666, by the religious enthusiast ANN BLOW:—

"The great fire in London, September 2-5, 1666, caused a great sensation in Chester. From a letter to Williamson, the editor of the *Gazette*, the publication of which had begun in November, 1665, it appears that at Chester 'all are in amazement at the heavy judgment fallen on London, which is concluded to be a total devastation and destruction of the whole metropolis.' Ann Blow has walked 150 miles to declare to the mayor and aldermen of Chester, whether they will hear or forbear, that 'the Lord's controversy is great,' and to threaten them with fresh evils. At Chester, where a fire broke out and was extinguished, the authorities took credit for their vigilance and energy in preventing a repetition of the London disaster."

T. T.

[195] PRINCE CHARLES' RETURN FROM SPAIN,
1623-4.

In Sir Harris Nicolas' *Progresses of James the First*, it is stated, on the authority of two extracts from the HOLY TRINITY Church Registers at CHESTER, that the bells of that Church were rung on two different occasions to celebrate the return from France of Prince Charles (afterwards Charles I.). It would seem from this, therefore, that the first joy-bells were rung on the strength of a false report.

T. T.

[196] SLAVERY IN CHESTER.

From an old scrap book of my late mother's, I forward to you the annexed cutting under the impression that you may like to bind it up in your CHESHIRE SHEAF. It contains some astounding revelations, which, if true, do not say much for either the Christianity or the moral perceptions ruling the early denizens of your old city. There could have been nothing worse than this possible in the old slave days of America!

"CHESTER ONCE A SLAVE MART.—In the reign of William the Conqueror, just seven hundred and seventy years ago, and at the time when Hugh Lupus was first Norman Earl of Chester, A.D. 1104, that city, according to an account given in a rare book, entitled *Vita Wulfstani, in Anglia Sacra*, vol. ii., page 258, became a very extensive mart for the barbarous traffic by the Saxons in English and Welsh slaves, which was carried on to a great height. The slaves consisted chiefly of the young of both sexes, and care was taken to provide

amongst the rest as many *enciens* women as possible, in order to enhance their value. They were collected from all parts of England and Wales for exportation at Bristol and at other places, for the continent. The frequent wars carried on with the Welsh furnished them with an immense number of slaves: and if more were wanting, their neighbours of the Northumbrian kingdom were at all times ready even to dispose of their nearest relations. Wulfstan, who was then Bishop of Worcester, endeavoured by all his means to induce the inhuman Saxons to drop so barbarous a custom, which neither the love of God nor the king could prevail on them to lay aside. It was a moving sight to see, in the public markets, rows of young people of both sexes, of great beauty and in the flower of their youth, tied together with ropes, daily prostituted, daily sold. Execrable fact! wretched disgrace! Men unmindful even of the affection of the brute creation! delivering into slavery their relations, and even their very offspring!

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[197] A TOPOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY.

The following old newspaper paragraph may interest your readers:—

"There is a house called HARDINGWOOD in the county of Chester, the inhabitants of which, whenever they go to the parish church, which is that of Church Lawton, in Cheshire, go out of the province of Canterbury into that of York; pass through two counties, Staffordshire and Cheshire; three parishes, Woolstanton, Audley, and Lawton; three constabularies, Tunstall, Chell, and Lawton; two hundreds, Pitchell and Nantwich; and two dioceses, Lichfield and Chester."

Withington.

J. P. E.

Queries.

[198] A CHESTER HOAX IN 1815.

How much truth is there in the story of a joker by means of a handbill, causing the country people in the neighbourhood of Chester, 1815, to bring into the city a multitude of cats under the pretence they were wanted to take to St. Helena? Are any copies of the handbill extant?

A. E.

Croeswylan, Cwsestry.

[199] THE FINNEY OAK, CHESHIRE.

Referred to, I am assured, by some writer of the 17th century. Where is, or was, this ancient oak, and what its history?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[200] THE REV. R. FARRINGTON, M.A., 1741.

[No. 47.—May 22.]

There was a Richard Farrington, of Jesus College, Oxford, who took his B.A. degree, 22nd Feb., 1724; and it is likely that he was the author of the volume of Sermons enquired about, inasmuch as Watt (*Biß. Brit.*) enters the book as follows:—Farrington, Rev. Richard.—Twenty Sermons, 1741, 8vo." The Lancashire Farringtons of Farrington, Worden, and Bibbleton, spelt their name with one "r."

Stretford, near Manchester. J. E. BAILEY.

Protracted search for Mr. Farrington's name among the beneficed clergy of the St. Asaph and Chester dioceses has been fruitless, and I feel pretty certain that if at all, he was never anything beyond a curate in either. Though foiled in this direction, I have been successful in another. My good friend Colonel Chester sends me, from his wonderful genealogical stores, the enclosed copy of Farrington's matriculation record at Oxford University, which shows that he was a native not of St. Asaph, but of the sister diocese of Bangor. The entry runs as follows:—

"Richard Farrington, matric. from Jesus' Coll. 23 Nov., 1720, aged 18, son of Robert Farrington, of the town of Carnarvon, paying the fees of a plebeian's son."

He graduated B.A. on the 22nd February, 1724, and in 1738 migrated to Cambridge, where he was admitted M.A., ad eundem, as of King's College. On the 10th of February, 1743, I find a Mr. Richard Farrington marrying a Miss Calvert—(*Gentleman's Magazine*)—but it is doubtful whether his identity with our Richard Farrington can be established. Any way, as I at first ascertained from the *Gentleman's Magazine* for that year, confirmed since by that excellent Welsh antiquary, Mr. E. Breese, Mr. Richard Farrington was, in August, 1762, appointed Chancellor of Bangor diocese. Here I lose sight of him, and am unable to state where or when he died, though it has not been for the want of diligent effort to arrive at the fact. T. HUGHES.

[201] CHESHIRE CHEESE.

[No. 71.—June 5.]

Old GERARD, the Cheshire herbalist, stands by his native county when, referring to *Saxifrage* at p. 891 of his celebrated work, he says:—

"Our English women use to put it in their running or rennet for cheese, especially in Cheshire (where I was borne), where the best cheese of this land is made."

Then again, getting nearer home, and writing of the herb *Ladies' Bedstraw*, he thus delivers himself:—

"The people in Cheshire, especially about Nantwich, where the best cheese is made, do use it in their rennet, esteeming greatly of that cheese above other made without it."

WILLIAM SMITH, one of the authors of the *Vale Royal*, writing, like Gerard, at the close of the 16th century, thus boasts of the great staple of his county:—

"They [the Cheshire farmers] make great store of cheese. In praise whereof I need not to say much, seeing that it is well known that no other country in the Realm may compare therewith, nor yet beyond the Seas; no, not Holland in goodness, although in quantity it far exceeds."

It used to be the custom at the CHESTER CHEESE FAIR for the leading dairy farmers to have a sort of public show of their cheese in the Linen Hall, early in the morning of the Fair-day, when there was quite a competition among the London and other dealers for the best dairy offered. The prices realized on such occasions were often excessive, the Londoners generally beating the provincial buyers out of the field for the choicer samples. Thus it came about that we had often to buy our CHESHIRE CHEESE in London, like the Newcastle-on-Tyne folks are said to have had sometimes to do with their coals.

The farmer who sold the produce of his dairy for the highest price in the Fair usually made a handsome present to his dairymen and servants attending the Fair; and spent besides a few bright shillings in ribbons and flowers, with which his men gaily decorated his waggons and horses, and their own attire and whips: they then made a triumphal progress through the main streets of the old city, and afterwards marched in similar state to their own village homes. EDITOR.

[202]

THE BOTHAMS.

[No. 72, 131.—June 5, July 8.]

Your correspondent G. T. is not quite accurate in stating "there is no such place in Cheshire as The Bothams"; for such a place did, and I believe does still, exist. In the parish of Mottram in Longendale, in Macclesfield Hundred, is a BOTHAMS or BOTTOMS HALL, situated, as the name implies, on low ground near the river Mersey or Goyt, and close to the borders of Derbyshire. WEBB, in his *Itinerary of 1621 (Vale Royal)*, thus speaks of it, "Hattersley, another township of Sir George Booth's, reaching down to Mersey; by side whereof stands another Hall of his, called BOTHAMS Hall, which hath anciently a Park in it." In the earliest Stockport Register is this entry:—

"1594. Nov. 13. George Strafford of the Bothams Hall in the countie of Darbie, gent, buried."

In this case its close proximity to Derbyshire has led to the wrong county being ascribed to the Hall. Again, in the Mottram Registers,

"1625. 28 Dec. a chylid of James brodhead of Bothoms-hall, buried."

This name is one, too, of old date; for in the Episcopal Registers at Lichfield is a licence dated Dec. 1, 1461, by which the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield "grants to Richard Carlile and Blanche his wife, that they may have Divine service celebrated in an oratory in their manor house of Bothoms in Mottram.

I have no record of any family of the Hammersleys being connected with the BOTHAMS, but if your correspondent, C. T. BAYLEY, will kindly give her authority for stating that such a family lived there, and the date, some information may possibly be obtained.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[203] ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

[No. 159.—July 24.]

The register of St. Peter's Church, Chester, records that upon "31st of August, 1639, Mr. FfULK Salisburie, alderman, was buried": so that, if he "quitted Chester" as his place of residence, he finally returned to find a place of sepulture in the old city.

Bridge-street, Chester.

J. E. EWEN.

[204] THE CORONATION EAGLE AT CHESTER.

[No. 168.—July 24.]

Walsingham (*Historia Anglicana*) is the author responsible for the incident touched by this Query, and there would seem to be no doubt as to its truth. Many writers have referred to it, more or less prominently; but the version best entitled to insertion in this place is that given by a distinguished native of our county, Dean Stanley, in his *Historic Memorials of Westminster Abbey*, p. 70. Describing the Coronation of Henry IV., which took place on the great festival of the Abbey, October 13, 1399, the Dean says:—

"In his coronation the use of the Scottish stone [of Soane] is first expressly mentioned: and, yet more suspiciously, a vase of holy oil, corresponding to the ampulla of Rheims, first makes its appearance. The Virgin Mary had given (so the report ran) a golden eagle filled with holy oil, to St. Thomas of Canterbury during his exile, with the promise that any Kings of England anointed with it would be merciful rulers, and champions of the Church [Maskell, iii., p. 17.] It was revealed by a hermit, through the first Duke of Lancaster, to the Black Prince,—by him laid up in the Tower for his son's coronation,—unaccountably overlooked by Richard II., but discovered by him in the last year of his reign, and taken to Ireland, with the request to Courtenay, Archbishop of Canterbury, to anoint him with it. The Primate refused, on the ground that the regal unction, being of the nature of a sacrament, could not be repeated. The King accordingly, on his return from Ireland, delivered the ampulla to the Archbishop at CHESTER, with the melancholy presage that it was meant by fate's decree for some more fortunate King."

The King had only just before, viz at Flint Castle, received the mock submission of his rival, Henry, who virtually from that hour usurped the sovereignty: the golden eagle therefore, an incumbrance any longer to Richard, was by him at CHESTER CASTLE handed over to Courtenay for use at the coming coronation of that arch-traitor, but doubtless "more fortunate King," Henry the Fourth.

EDITOR.

The worthy monk of St. Alban's (Walsingham) is not very scrupulous as to the purity of the language he attributes to the Virgin, for the word which he used

and which has been rendered "champions," literally signifies boxers, or heroes of the prize-ring,—a kind of champions not very well suited to the defence of the Church. This oil, preserved in a golden eagle and stone jar, was long lost, but it was at last miraculously brought to light. While Henry, the first Duke of Lancaster, was waging war in foreign parts, the aforesaid eagle and jar were delivered to him by a holy man, to whom the place of their concealment was divinely revealed. He gave the relic to the noble Prince Edward, commonly called the Black Prince, who deposited it in the Tower of London. It was enclosed in a box secured with more than ordinary care; but the box itself by some accident was put astray, so that the holy oil could not be used at the coronation of Richard the Second. In the year of grace, 1399, King Richard, having made an inquisition into the treasures bequeathed to him by his ancestors, found the eagle and jar, together with a manuscript in the handwriting of "St. Thomas of Canterbury," containing the prophetic description of all the advantages and blessings that the kings of England would derive from being anointed with this holy oil. He was so struck with the enumeration that he wished the ceremony of his coronation to be repeated, and applied to the archbishop of Canterbury for the purpose. The prelate obstinately refused, declaring that unction was a sacrament, which, like baptism, could not be administered a second time. Richard took the eagle and jar with him when he made his unfortunate voyage to Ireland; and on his return resigned them to the custody of the Archbishop of Canterbury at CHESTER, saying, "It is manifestly the will of God that I should not be anointed with this holy oil; that solemn sacrament is reserved for some more favoured monarch." The archbishop kept these precious treasures until the coronation of Henry the Fourth, who was the first English sovereign anointed with this precious oil.—*Saturday Review*.

Parkgate-road.

FRANK H. WILLIAMS.

AUGUST 14, 1878.

Original Documents.

[205] THE RAILWAY CROSSING AT SALTNEY.

It is curious and sometimes instructive to see how history repeats itself. I saw in the published proceedings of the Chester Town Council, last month, that the Railway Authorities had sought, but ineffectually, to close up the foot-path across their level line at SALTNEY, and so force pedestrians to step into the mud in order to cross the rails, whenever the carriage-way chanced to be open. It was decided at the Council that to permit any such block and hindrance to the foot-traffic

would cause frequent and serious inconvenience, at a point where greatly increased, instead of a more limited, accommodation was becoming every day more necessary. A similar difficulty, and just as complete a block, did actually exist early in the 17th century at Chester, as will be seen from the following Order of Assembly made in the mayoralty of William Gamull, under date 24th January, 1608.

"MR. DAVID DYMMOCKE LICENSED TO MAKE A POSTERNE GATE THROUGH THE BARRS.

"Lastlie, licensse is geeven unto Mr. David Dymmoocke (if he soe please) to builde and make a posterne gate vpon his owne Costes for foote passengers through the barrs of the said Citie, w^{ch} open gate and throughfare, by reason of the Continewall passages of Cartes and horses through the same, the said Mr. Dymmoocke hath Complained to be often pestered and stoppt, soe as his Ma^{ties} leige people manie tymes are letted and disturbed in their passage through the same."

If the citizens of that far remote day felt the pinch of having to pass in and out of the city eastward, at the BARS GATE, by the one only opening provided, viz., the carriage-way, it is little wonder that a similar feeling should have arisen in our own day, at the other end of the city, especially as the population of Chester has increased during the past three centuries to so great an extent.

L.L.

[206]

AN INSOLENT VERGER.

The MS. Records of the Dean and Chapter of Chester contain a great number of curious articles, well entitled to a place in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. Here is one recording the existence of serious insubordination on the part of one Henry Hughes, an aged Verger of the Cathedral, directed against its statutable Head. A special Chapter Meeting was summoned by the Dean to take the offender in hand, and the following Order of Penance was enjoined and solemnly recorded in the Chapter Book:—

"In the Chapter House of the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary at Chester, &c., Wee, the Dean and Chapter, &c., capitularly assembled the 18th day of October, 1693, do Order and Decree

"That Whereas Henry Hughes, one of the Virg^{rs} of this Church, did on the 14th of this inst. October not only impute to Mr. Dean the Giving Orders which he gave not, but in a most Rude, irreverent, and impudent man^{er}, in the Broad Ile of the said Church (tho' com^{manded} to forbear, and go about his employm^t.) yet did Reproachfully and Clamorously pursue Mr. Dean with the said false imputation often repeated; The said Henry Hughes be the first time publicly Admonished, his Admonition hereby Recorded, and that he shall acknowledge his Offence before the Members of the Quire, in these words, distinctly and respectfully pronounced by him after the Precentor reading them to him.

"I, Henry Hughes, do acknowledge that I falsely charged Mr. Dean to have given certain Orders which he gave not, and that after he asked me if I was not ashamed so to bely him, to his face I obstinately persisted in the same untruth; and when he bade me begone about my employm^t, I did in a Rude and irreverent manner (neither becoming my place in the Church, nor consistent with the Reverence due to the Dean by the Statutes) clamorously pursue him with the charge aforesaid. I am sorry for my offence, and earnestly begg it may be rhis time remitted, promising that I will behave my self dutifully and respectfully to my superio^{rs}, and never transgress in this or the like man^{er} fot the future."

"We do also Decree that no Salary shall be payed him the said Henry Hughes from the Church, till his Acknowledgm^t be thus made—Salvo jure ipsius Decani, &c.

Signed in the presence of
ISAAC SHARPE,
Notary Public.

L: FOGGE, Decan^t.
WM. THOMPSON
JOH. ALLEN
JO: THANE
EDWR: ENTWISLE

"The said acknowledged't was then made."

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[207]

BEAR BAITING AT CONGLETON.

Among the sports and pastimes which the inhabitants of CONGLETON enjoyed in common with the rest of the people of England, was that of BEAR BAITING. When these exhibitions were held in the town, rings were placed about every fifty yards in some of the streets to tie the bear to. They had three days of it in 1601. Their Menagerie contained two Bears at least; and an officer waited on these surly quadrupeds, whom the authorities denominated the Bearward, and paid him 5s. per week.

It is said that in the year 1622 the business of "selling the Word of God to buy a Bear with," was transacted. There are several accounts of this "selling the Bible," but the most probable one is as follows:—

There being a new Bible wanted for the use of the Chapel, the Corporation were not willing to purchase one just at that time, though they had laid up some money towards the said purchase. In the interim the Town's Bear died, and as the Bearward was not able to raise money to purchase another, he applied to the Corporation for assistance; who, on consideration, thought it more necessary to take the money laid by for the purchase of the Bible, and give it to the Bearward to buy a Bear with, than to buy a Bible for the use of the Chapel; and so, the minister had to use the old one for the then present time. Thus runs one

account: another states that, as to the money the old Bible was sold for, the Corporation gave it to the Bearward to purchase a Bear for the Wakes, and that they shortly afterwards bought a new Bible for the Chapel.

Another account states:—That the old Bible was given to the Clerk, who sold it for 16s., and put the money into the cupboard. The Clerk's son being the Town's Bearward, and the Bear dying about a fortnight before the Wakes, he applied to the Corporation to purchase another Bruin. After consideration, they refused to do so. He then applied to his father for assistance to enable him to buy one himself. His father, being low in cash at that time, could not give him any money towards the object of his wishes; but, after deliberating for some time, he said at last, that he might take the 16s. out of the cupboard, for which sum the old Bible was sold that had been given him by the Corporation. The son took the money, and it went in part to buy a Bear with; which circumstance has to this day been taken up by the malignant against the good people of CONGLETON in the expression, that "they sold their Bible to buy a Bear!"

Another tradition, which bears very hard indeed upon the morality of the good Burgesses of Congleton, roundly asserts that they actually sold their Bible, and gave the price of it to the Bearward to purchase another Bear with.

Of all these accounts of this curious transaction, the first is the most probable one; but the present inhabitants of CONGLETON have the good sense to laugh, and even they themselves call their Borough—Beartown.

There are a great number of payments to Bearwards at the great COCKFIGHT on the 5th, 6th, and 7th May, 1597, and payments, from time to time, such as these:—

1600. Given to the Bearward at the great Cockfight, 5s.
1608. Paid Thos. Green, the Bearward, 5s.
1610. Paid Thos. Kelsall, the Bearward, 5s.
1611. Paid Thos. Green, the Bearward, 5s.

A very great number of payments, such as the above, will be found in the records for 1621, 1622, &c. The Corporation paid Bearwards, Rush-bearers, Bullwards, at the Wakes; and for Cockpits, Butts, King's players, Earl of Derby's players, the Princess Lady Elizabeth's players, &c., &c.

1858.

W. W.

[The foregoing is from a series of MS. Notes relating to Congleton presented to us just twenty years ago by the late Mr. Alderman Warrington, an industrious local antiquary who made large collections for a history of that borough.

EDITOR.]

[208] MOW COP DIALECT.

The following specimens form a third instalment:—

AN' AW, or AN' ALL. And all. Used constantly in the sense of "as well," "likewise."

"And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all."—Judges, xvi. chap., v. 3.

"Wi' crackin, and jowkin, and braggin,
And fratchin, and feightin, and aw;
See glorious fun and divarsion
War ne'er seen in castle and haw."

—Anderson's *Cumberland Ballads*. Quoted in Booker's *Scripture and Prayer Book Glossary*.

The phrase occurs twice, in the same sense, in Tennyson's *Northern Farmer*:—

"An' Squire 'ull be as mad an' all—a' dear, a' dear!"
—Old Style.

"She's a beauty, thou thinks—an' soä is scoors o' gells,
Them as 'as munny an' all."
—New Style.

BEEN. Bees.

"They murmured, as doth a swarm of *been*."
—Chaucer, C. T., *The Squire's Tale*.

CHOCK FULL is an expression signifying quite full. *Chock* is probably a corruption of *choke*. Readers of "Dombey and Son" will perhaps remember the interview between Captain Cuttle and Mr. Dombey at Brighton; on which occasion the Captain assures Mr. Dombey that "if there is a man *chock* full of science in the world, it's old Sol Gills."

CLEM. CLEMMIN'. CLEM'T, or CLEM'D. Starve. Starving. Starved:—From hunger.

"What's the canells been t' him? They'n brought him neither me-at nor be-acon, nor wage to lay by, if he didn't save it wi' *clemmin'* his own inside."

—George Eliot. *Middlemarch*: A Study of Provincial Life.

DROVYERS. Drovers.

"And long before high noone they had
An hundred fat bucces slaine;
Then having dined, the *droviers* went
To rouse the deare againe."

—Percy's *Reliques*.

GUMPTION. Spirit. Energy. Capacity.

"Enthusiasm's past redemption,
Gane in a gallopin' consumption,
Not a' the quacks, wi' a' their *gumption*,
Will ever mend her."

—Burns.

JAW. Coarse rallery.

"Now deil-ma-care about their *jaw*,
The senseless, gawky million."

—Burns.

BLENCH. Glimpse. Example: I just keetch, or ketoh'd, a *blench* on it.

GOSTER. Swagger. Swaggering is termed *gosterin'*, and a swaggerer or boaster—a *gosterer*.

HACCLE. Grumble. Dispute. Possibly from haggie.

KERRY. Noise. Outcry. A *greet* (great) *kerry*.

LACK. Beat. Thrash. "Th' lad deserves a reight dine good lacin.'

MIPIN'. Indifference to food. Want of appetite. Mipin'an' mincin.'

TIZACKY. Particular about food.

TWIZZLE. Twist.

My acknowledgments are due to DR. BRUSHFIELD for the large amount of additional and very interesting information which he has so kindly given, illustrative of the first batch of words I sent you. To my mind the subject is a most interesting one; but having only a limited stock of books, and living, as I do, out of reach of the advantages which a good town library affords, I am quite conscious that the subject is capable of more exhaustive treatment than it can possibly receive from me.

G. H.

Mow Cop.

[209] THE GATEWAY OF CHESTER CASTLE YARD.

A newspaper paragraph of the date 1813 records as follows:—"On Thursday last one of the columns belonging to the superb entrance gate to CHESTER CASTLE YARD, was reared upon its plinth. The Denbigh Militia attended upon this occasion, and after the column was reared, fired three excellent volleys. Their Colonel, SIR W. W. WYNN, after depositing, in a small circular cavity cut in the plinth, several coins of the present reign, placed over them a brass plate bearing the following inscription:—

"Under this column, erected August 26th, 1813, in the presence of the ROYAL DENBIGHSHIRE MILITIA, Sir Watkin W. Wynn, Colonel of the said regiment, placed this plate to record the signal victory gained over the French, by Field Marshal Lord Wellington, near VICTORIA, in Spain, June the 21st, 1813, and 2nd of the Regency of H.R.H. Geo., Prince of Wales."

Round this plate, upon the stone plinth, was cut the following memorial of the last triumph of the Marquis of Wellington:—"Victory of the Pyrenees, gained by Lord Wellington, July 30th, 1813." Most of the company present at the luncheon having adjourned to witness the raising of the column, the Castle-yard was crowded with an assemblage of fashion rarely witnessed."

J.P.E.

Queries.

[210] "DR. D. D. OF R." 1641.

I shall be glad if any of your correspondents can supply the full names to these initials, which have baffled my investigations. They occur in the second dedicatory letter in the *Defensive Doubts, Hopes, and Reasons for refusal of the Oath* imposed by Convocation in 1640; by the Rev. JOHN LEY, Pastor of Great Bud-

worth, in Cheshire, 4to. The letter is thus addressed: "To the Right Worshipfull, my very reverend and Worthy Friends and Brethren,

Mr. Th. M. D. of Ch.

Dr. D. D. of R.

Mr. E. H. W. of M. and

Mr. Ch. H. R. of W., and with them, to the rest of my venerable Brethren of the Diocese of Chester."

These persons were of considerable consequence in the diocese of Chester, which then of course comprised Lancashire. The first refers to Thomas Mallorie, Dean of Chester. The second is now enquired about. The third is Richard Heyrick, Warden of Manchester. The fourth is Charles Herle, Rector of Winwick, near Warrington. Ley himself was Vice-Dean, and he is alluded to in your *Original Documents*, Nos. 14 and 28 (pp. 6 and 10).

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

[211] CAPTAIN THOMAS SANDFORD.

This royalist officer, whose doughty exploits at Hawarden and at Bunbury are sparkling gems in our Civil War local history, is claimed by some authorities as a Cheshire man by birth; while others, and perhaps with greater semblance of truth, declare him to have been a native Salopian. Who shall decide when doctors disagree? Can the register of his baptism be produced? Have his descendants any unpublished letters or papers of his that they would allow to be printed in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF?

L. L.

[212] SALMON REFUSED BY APPRENTICES.

Our favourite River DEE dainty is said to have been at one time so common that, in apprentices' indentures, it was expressly provided on their behalf that they should not be compelled to eat it more than once a week. Has this unlikely story any foundation?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Replies.

[213] WREXHAM ANCIENT ORGAN.

[No. 162.—July 24.]

A correspondent of *Bye-gones*, Aug. 7, 1872, says:—"According to a *Gazetteer of England and Wales*, temp. Charles II., "at Wrexham is ye rarest steeple in ye 3 nations; and hath ye fayrest organes in Europe, till ye late Wars in Charles ye first his raigne, whose Parliament forces pulled him and them downe, with other ceremonial ornaments." In Fyne's *Ten Yeares Travell*, 1617, we are told of "the Towne Wrexham, bewtifed with a most faire Tower, called the Holy Tower, and commended for the musical Organes in the Church."

According to the Rev. D. R. Thomas's *History of the Diocese of St. Asaph*, Wrexham again became famous for its Organ; and he tells us of one erected by Green in 1779, at a cost of £360, which was "reckoned the finest at that time in the diocese, with the exception of that in the Cathedral."

Croeswylan.

A. R.

[214] CHURCH'S MANSION, NANTWICH.

[No. 152.—July 17.]

This picturesque black and white gabled house stands at the end of Hospital-street, and is in excellent preservation without and within. It was formerly moated; a portion of the moat can still be seen, and another portion, now covered over, is the boundary of the parish.

Beneath one of the windows is the following :—

"Richard Cheroche And Margerye Cheroche, his wyfe, mai iiii. Thomas Cleafe made this worke, Anno D'ni MCCCCCLXXVII, in the xviii. yere of the reame of our noble queene elezabeth."

Beneath another window :—

"The roote of wysedom is to feare God. The branche thereof shall lo'g endure."

It is said Queen Elizabeth slept here, but this cannot be true, as the local chronicler at that time recorded all notable events, such as the death of Queen Elizabeth and the visit of King James to Nantwich, and he could not have omitted to notice a visit from one whom he calls "our gracious governor."

Church's Mansion has apparently remained in the family. The name is spelt "Churoche" in the early registers. Of this family was Saboth Churoche, vicar of Tarvin. The house now belongs to Radford Norcop, Esq., descended from Church Norcop, Esq., of Betton Hall, Salop.

The rectory adjoins the church, and Partridge calls it "a genteel brick fabriok (!) built by Dr. Brooke, Dean of Chester and Rector of Nantwich."

FOSTER G. BLACKBURNE.

Nantwich Rectory, July 27th, 1878.

The *Nantwich and Crewe Chronicle* of July 20th copied this query, and added, "Could anyone assist L. L. in this matter, who is a correspondent in a contemporary?" The result was that on the 27th July the enclosed account appeared, which I have copied and now send to you.

J. H.

"Your correspondent 'L. L.' who writes for information respecting the old black and white house at Hospital-street end, is wrong in supposing that it is called 'The Church's Mansion.' The name is 'Church's Mansion,' so called after the family name. In days of yore, when Nantwich was of less dimensions than at present, the 'Mansion' was surrounded by a moat. The property descended to its present owner, Radford Norcop, Esq., from Church Norcop, Esq., of Betton Hall, Salop, in whose possession are deeds relating to this property dating back to the time of Edward III. The original building, no doubt, suffered from fire in the time of Elizabeth. The 'mansion' has been for

the last nine years, and is now used as a ladies' seminary, for which purpose it is admirably adapted. The large entrance hall, with corridor of equal size over it, the dining-rooms and the bedrooms are spacious and lofty, and are oak-panelled from floor to ceiling. The corridor is well adapted for recreation, as also is the large garden attached to the house. The schoolrooms are of recent date, having been built for the present occupant, and are contiguous to the east end of the house. As the builder, as well as the painter, have just completed a thorough renovation of the premises, the old house is looking its best, and is an ornament to the suburbs of the town. Should 'L. L.' be travelling by stage-coach or any other conveyance by road from Crewe to Nantwich, he will have an opportunity, when turning out of the Crewe road into the town, of seeing the front of the 'mansion' to the best advantage, and it is certainly one of the most curious and interesting sights to be found in the neighbourhood."

A. J.

[215] THE CORONATION EAGLE AT CHESTER.

[Nos. 168, 204.—July 24, Aug. 7.]

I possess a copy of the "golden edition" of the *Sun* Newspaper, as published on the 28th of June, 1838, the day of Her Majesty's Coronation. Glancing through it incidentally to-day, I find the following notice of the CORONATION EAGLE, said by Dean Stanley to have once rested for a time within CHESTER CASTLE :—

"The AMPULLA, which contains the holy oil, is in the form of an eagle, with the wings expanded, standing on a pedestal all of pure gold, finely chased. The head unscrews at the middle of the neck for the convenience of putting in the oil, and the vessel being entirely hollow, it is poured out into the anointing spoon through the point of the beak. The weight of the whole is from eight to ten ounces, and the cavity of the body is capable of containing about six ounces. The Anointing Spoon is likewise of pure gold, with four pearls set in the broadest part of the handle; the bowl of the Spoon is finely chased, both within and without, and, from its extreme thinness, appears to be very ancient."

T.G

AUGUST 21, 1878.

Original Documents.

[216] CAROUSAL AND DUEL AT CHESTER.

The following curious details of an INQUEST held at Chester shortly after the accession of George the Second, will be read with interest. We met with the document in a bundle of Inquisitions preserved amongst the ancient muniments of the Corporation of Chester.

"INQUISIC'ON taken in the Common Hall of Pleas of the said City, before William Hughes, Alderman, and Thomas Brook, Alderman, his Ma'ty's Coroners for the County of the said City, on Thursday, the twenty-eight day of September, 1727, upon sight of

the dead body of Thomas Robinson, late of the City of Dublin, in the kingdom of Ireland, gentl'n, upon the oaths of thirteen jurors, good and lawful men of the said city, who being charged to enquire by what means the said Thomas Robinson came to his death, Do say upon their oaths that the s'd Thomas Robinson upon Tuesday, the twenty-sixth day of this instant September, in the evening of the same day came into the GOLDEN TALBOT INN, in the Eastgate Street of the said City, in company with one Robert Meredith, gentl'n, and some other gentlemen, upon their Arrival from Dublin, and there supped together; and after supper continued drinking there till ab't two or three of the clock the next morning; in which time some words happened between the s'd Thomas Robinson and ye s'd Rob't Meredith, occasioned by the s'd Thomas Robinson; who afterwards assaulted the s'd Robert Meredith by striking him upon the breast with his head, and then challenged him to fight with him, and layd hold of him, and furnished him with a sword, and took him by the arm, and obliged him to go along with him into the foregate Street of the s'd City; where the s'd Thomas Robinson and Robert Meredith drew their swords, and the s'd Thomas Robinson made several passes at the s'd Robert Meredith, and wounded him in several places.

"And the s'd Jurors upon their oaths say that whilst the s'd Robert Meredith and the s'd Thomas Robinson were engaged in fight as a'd, one John Carrick, gentl'n, who was then and there present, interposed with his sword drawn, and therewith struck upon the swords of the s'd Robert Meredith and Thomas Robinson, endeavouring to beat them down; whereupon instantly the s'd Robert Meredith being upon his own defence, gave the said Thomas Robinson one mortal wound with the sword, w'ch he then and there held in his right Hand, in the left side of his throat, of w'ch s'd wound he languished till ab't eleven of the clock in the last night, and then dyed of the same wound in the s'd City.

"And so, the s'd Jury say that the s'd Robert Meredith did wound and kill the s'd Thomas Robinson, in manner and form a'd, and not otherwise to the knowledge of ye s'd Jury or any of them, or by any Evidence to them appearing. And the s'd Jurors further say that the s'd Sword is of the value of one shelling, and is now in the Custody of the Clerk of the Peace of s'd City of Chester.

"In Testimony whereof, as well the s'd Coroners as the s'd Jurors, have herunto put their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

"Signed (and sealed) by the Jurors, and by

WILL'M HUGHES } Coroners.
THO. BROCKE }

Alderman Hughes, we may presume, was a Jacobite at heart, for he seals with one of the posies of the so-called Pretender, "a crown between a rose and thistle, and the motto contracted, SEM. EA (for *Semper eadem*). Alderman Brock seals with his own family crest, "a demi-lion regardant, holding in his right gamb a dart."

There were under the Charter two Coroners of the City, a rule which prevailed until our own times.

EDITOR.

[217] QUEEN'S MESSENGER AT CHESTER, 1569.

The following curious document, the original of which is in my own collection, will afford its own commentary on the sort of "diligent haste" with which journeys were performed between London and Chester in the days of Queen Bees. The letters arriving on this occasion by the royal courier had reference, not unlikely, to the works then in progress for the restoration of the HARBOUR, which had been for a century or more gradually silting up, to the ruin of the Chester trade, and to the great concurrent advantage of Liverpool, which had previously been, as it legally was still, "a creek within the Port of CHESTER. The Queen and her Council had from time to time shewn great interest in, and favour towards, the citizens' efforts to resuscitate the Trade on the Dee.

"Anno Regno Regine Elizabeth xj [1569].

"John Taylor, one of the quenes ma'ties ordinary messeng's, asketh allowance for rydinge in all diligent hast at the comaundement of the righte honorabell the lorde highe treasurer of englande, and others of the quenes ma'ties moest honorabell pryvey counsell from london w'th l'res from them for the quenes ma'ties affaires vnto the customers, contrrollers, & serchers of the port of Westchester, and the members of the same; & after I had stayed ther and made delyveraunce, and received aunswere, I returned agayne to london. Wherefore the said John Taylor prayeth to have allowance for his chardg's and paynes in his said Journey, to be rated by the said lord highe treasurer of england, and payed by one of the tellers of the quenes ma'ties receyt at Westm'r.

"I was out in the iorney xxvij ty daies at ijs viij d the day. Some, iij li. xiijs. viijd.

"flat all'd WINCHESTER

Vis' p' Rob'tum Sare
Cl'ion' D'ni Thes'."

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[218] CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IN HENRY VIII.'s REIGN.

IN THE CHESHIRE SHEAF for June 5th, there appeared some curious references to Bishop Rowland Lee, Lord President of the Marches of Wales, who was evidently a man of fiery temperament and of fearless action, and about as little like an ordinary bishop of our day as it is well possible to conceive. There are three volumes of his MS. letters in the State Paper Office, all tinged more or less with this individuality of character.

Complaining in 1537 of the difficulty of working the criminal law on the borders of Cheshire and Wales, the Bishop, in his capacity as Lord Warden of the Marches, thus writes to Thomas Cromwell:—

"These shall be to advertise you that where of late I sent unto your lordship a bill of such murders and manslaughteres as were done in Cheshire, which would not be found until the Council [of the Marches] set the same forward for condign punishment of the offenders; and although at the late assizes a great number of bills, both for murder and riots were put unto the great inquest, and good evidence given upon the same,—yet contrary to their duties to our sovereign lord and their oaths, they have found murders to be manslaughteres, and riots to be misbehaviours. We have called the said inquest before us, and committed them to ward for their lightness in the premises. And for as much as I think that suit will be made unto your lordship of my straitness and hard dealing therein,—if your lordship will have that country in as good order and stay as we have set other parts, there must be punishment done, or else they will continue in their boldness, as they have used heretofore.

"If your lordship will that I shall deal remissively therein, upon the advertisement of your lordship's mind by your l'res, I shall gladly follow the same. Or else, if your lordship do mind reformation of the premises, write unto me a sharp letter to see the law administered, and to punish such as shall be thought offenders, according to the Council's discretion for their misbehaviour, by fines, strait imprisonment, or otherwise. For if we should do nothing but as the common law will, these things so far out of order will never be redressed."

The Bishop's advice was approved by Cromwell, with this one caution, that indifferent justice must be ministered to poor and rich, according to their demerits; and that gentlemen concerned in riots and robbery were not to be spared on account of their positions. And so it came about that, at a quarter sessions before the Earl of Worcester, Lord Ferrers, and other gentlemen of the shire, "four of the best blood in the County of Shropshire" were reported to have been hanged.—This we have upon the authority of Mr. J. A. Froude, founded on the Bishop's own correspondence.

G. T.

[219] BREAKING OUT OF CHESTER GAOL.

The curious story here told is due mainly to the research of a distinguished Irish student, Mr. Prendergast, and has probably never yet penetrated to Chester, the scene of the strange exploit:—

"In the month of November, 1683, all Ireland and London itself rang with the news of the capture of three proclaimed Tories and robbers of the county of Kilkenny, and of the adjacent districts, named Brennan. They were safe in Chester jail. The Mayor of Chester announced the news to the Duke of Ormonde, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, at his house in St. James-square,

in London. The Chief Justice of Ireland congratulated the Duke. The Duke thanked the Mayor of Chester, and requested him to have a careful eye to them. During the three years before their arrest they had robbed his Majesty's good subjects of £12,000 and upwards in cash. They had been tried, convicted, and sentenced, and brought out to be hanged; but had been rescued from the very scaffold and the hands of the hangman. They were proclaimed in Ireland; they were pursued by armed men; rewards were offered, but in vain. They sailed to North Wales, themselves in a hooker from Ringsend, then the port of Dublin; their horses (described as delicate ones, or as we should say nowadays, 'thoroughbred'), with one of their comrades, as groom, in another and a larger vessel. They were 'rich in apparel,' and wore swords which they attempted to draw on their captors in the streets of Chester. They were heavily shackled in jail; but after a few days we find that they overpowered the jailer and his warders, and opened their prison doors for themselves.

The following are the documents respecting the arrest in Chester, and escape of the three Brennans, as found by him amongst the Carte papers, at Oxford—formerly a portion of the manuscripts of the muniment room of Kilkenny Castle. They are given in as nearly the original spelling as is possible to be reproduced:—

[Matthew Anderton, J.P., to the Duke of Ormonde's Secretary.]

Dear Sir, Chester, 20th Oct., 1683.

The inclosed will inform you of ye apprehension here yesterd. of some of ye Irish proscribed Highwaymen. I thought it my duty to send ye same to you to bee communicated to his Grace my L. Lieut. of Ireland, whose order concerning them will be observed. fower delicate horses, arms, money, & a bill of 50£, are in custody, & ye persons made prisoners in our comon gaol.

Several persons here were instrumentall to theire apprehension to ye hazard of theire lives; one only wounded in his hand by laying hold of ye sword w'ch ye rogue was in drawing to fall on him w'th. they are rich in apparell, & tis thought have a considerable treasure in ye custody of one of theire companions yet in Wales, but some are gone out in search of him.

These men shipt their horses from Dub. in a Welshman ship bound for Mostyn, but came after them to sea in a shallop and, these taken aboard, they were landed at Bewmaris, and coming hither were discovered by Alexr. Marshall menconed in ye inclosed.

I hope his Grace will order a good encouragement to ye persons that apprehended them; for they deserve well, considering ye hazard they run to secure them: all wch. I most humbly submit to his Grace in humblest duty & reverence.

Sir, y'r faithful servant,

MA. ANDERTON.

For Mr. Secretary Gascoigne at ye Duke of Ormonde's in St. James Square.

[The Duke of Ormonde to the Mayor of Chester.]

London

23 Oct. 1683.

Sir,

I have seen a Lre. from Chester, wherein there was an Information taken upon oath before you against three of the Brenans, who committed a Robbery upon the informer in Ireland, and were for that and other misdemeanours proscribed there, and that you have the said persons in hold. I give you thanks for your care in the apprehension of them, & desire they shall be kept in safe custody till it shall be considered how they shall be transmitted into Ireland. In the meantime their horses goods and money should be kept safe, and a bill of Exchange of fifty pounds found with them sent hither, that it may be knowne who it is drawne upon, and who drew the bill, and from whence, which may lead us to a further discovery. If these people were proclaimed, as the informer sayes, there is a Reward sett downe in ye proclamation to be given to the persons that should apprehend them; which when they are convicted will be payed to such persons at Chester as were instrumental in the taking of them.

I remaine

yours &c. [ORMONDE]

[Chief Justice Keatinge to Mr. James Clarke, steward to the Duke of Ormonde's household.]

first November, 1683.

Sir,

I have formerly given you an acct. of the Robbery committed by the Brenans & their accomplices at Mr. Boltons house of Brazile.

His Excellency was soe warm in ye matter that, the Judges of the King's Bench being all in their circuits, he sent for me and gave me his Commandes to putt the search for the Theeves; & who after sentence, & being brought to ye Gallows to be Executed, made their Escape in a way & by a means too tedious for this letter, of which you will Infallibly hear more hereafter.

On Thursday last, his Excellency had notice that these fellows were apprehended at Chester, and with them some Bills of Exchange; they are Extravagantly Rich, and I am told for Certain, that if they may have their pardon, or liberty to transporte to forraigne parts, for 2 or 3000.£ they would not scruple the laying of it downe.

The May'r of Chester, for ought that I can hear maketh Great Difficulty in sending them over without a Warr't from the Kings, with which I did presume to acquainte the Lord Lieut. his Grace the very night I arrivd in this Toun. I pray present my most humble Duty to his Grace & my Lady Dutches & believe

Me youre Affectionate friend
& Servente

JOHN KEATINGE.

Queries.

[220] MR. GEE, OF CHESTER, 1571.

In the Accounts of Robert Nowell's executors, p. 122, there is a charitable payment, 26th May, 1571, "to one Mr. Gee, of Chester," who was then deprived of his living. Who was this man, and where was he beneficed? The Editor of the Accounts suggests that he was Edwd. Gee, of Brasenose College, 1598, proctor; and he adds that "Enquiry from Cheshire antiquaries well versed in the ecclesiastical records of the county has failed to discover any facts about this minister, or the benefice at Chester of which he was deprived in 1571," (page 123). But this *Edward* Gee, who was proctor in 1598, entered Merton College in 1582, at 17, and could not therefore be deprived of a living in 1571. (See Wood's *Ath. Oxon.*, ii. 258, where there is an account of him.) I am interested in the Gee family, who were of Lancashire; and I should be pleased to know the local habitation and name of the above deprived minister. His suspension took place during Bishop Downham's occupancy of the See—a prelate who harassed his clergy in his endeavours to enforce strict conformity. Between 1530 and 1540 a George Gee was serving the cure of Swetenham, Deanery of Middlewich, in the pay of the rector of that parish.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

[221] ANCIENT INSCRIPTION AT HANDLEY.

When passing through that rather pretty village one evening last summer, I noticed an INSCRIPTION inserted high up on the steeple, but which I could not in the twilight, with my weak eyes, satisfactorily decipher. Should any of your correspondents have noticed this stone tablet, I should be pleased to receive through THE SHEAF an explanation of its meaning.

Rhyl.

C. RIGBY.

[222] IRON BRIDGE, NEAR ECCELESTON.

This locality is said to be named in reliable documents dating not long after the Conquest. But it surely cannot be soberly argued that any Bridge of Iron ever occupied that or any other site at so early a period! If not, then what can have given rise to its extraordinary name, of late years altered to *Heron Bridge*?

L. L.

Replies.

[223] THE PINDAR FAMILY.

[No. 141.—July 10.]

In answer to the query, What is known of the PINDAR family?, I send the following extract from a letter dated 1818, from Mr. Edmund Lodge, of the Herald's College:

"It appears that the common ancestor of the PINDAR family was of Yorkshire about the time of Henry 8th, and that he had a son Thomas, who settled at Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire, from whom descended two sons: the elder founded a family at Bredhall and Duffield, in Derbyshire. From the second son of Thomas Pindar, of Wellingborough, descended the line of PINDARS of EDENSHAW or IDENSHAW, Cheshire, in which was the title of Baronet. SIR PETER, the first Baronet, was living in 1663; he was the father of Charles Pindar, who is buried at Llanymynech. Sir Peter was Collector of the Customs at Chester; he had two sons and three daughters. THOMAS the eldest son, married Ann, daughter and heiress of Robert Wynne, of Nerquis, in the county of Flint, and died before his father in 1687, leaving a son, PAUL, and a daughter Dorothy."

The custody of the infant baronet was the cause of much dispute between his paternal and maternal relatives. His uncle Charles Pindar on the former, and his uncle Edward Williams of Pontygwyddel on the latter, side were finally appointed by the Chancery Commissioners. Sir Paul died unmarried at the age of 23 or 24, and in him the male line of the Edenshaw family of Pindar became extinct.

I find the name of THOMAS JONES among those who had the charge of Sir Paul's estate on the maternal side while he was an infant; and in his Will there is a passage directing his executors to prosecute the Chancery suit against his cousin George Weld, and his cousin Thomas Jones. Whether this is Sir Thomas Jones of Carreg-hova, I have no further clue to decide—there is, however, good reason for supposing it might be.

The celebrated Sir Paul Pindar, the great merchant, renowned for his learning, riches, and princely charities, in the time of Charles 1st, belonged to this family: for an account of him, see Pennant's *London*, page 450.

ERYE.

[224] THE BREERETONS OF ASHLEY.

[No. 160.—July 24.]

The extract which MR. HUGHES has communicated to THE SHEAF from his valuable copy of Sir Peter Leycester's *Historical Antiquities* is one of much interest. It has, however, been put into print before, and by Sir Peter Leycester himself. At the end of his "Answer to the Book of Sir Thomas Manwaringe, entitled a *Defence of Amicia*, &c.," published in 1673, are a few pages of memoranda, introduced as follows:—

"Courteous Reader,—I have here in the end of this Book an opportunity to Rectifie some Omissions and Errors in my former Book [*i.e.*, The *Historical Antiquities*] which escaped me through misinformation of others, and desire thee to pardon and amend them, as followeth."

The first entry is the one MR. HUGHES has quoted, introduced thus—"Page 206, after the last line but two, should have followed thus—'Also another John Brereton,' &c."

There is, however, one curious discrepancy between the two versions. In the printed one, Sir P. L. says Sir John Brereton's personal estate was left "to his widow and *Caius College* in Cambridge, where he was educated," whereas MR. HUGHES' quotation gives it as bequeathed "to *Sidney College* in Cambridge, where he was educated." Which of these is correct?

It is a very curious comment upon the way in which History is written, to find that,—whilst Sir Peter Leycester was so extremely anxious to put the most accurate information upon record and whilst he so courteously desired his readers to pardon his omissions and to amend them, that although his book has been virtually twice reprinted during the past 200 years, his wishes have not been attended to, his addenda have not been inserted, and his own corrections have not been made! Dr. ORMEROD did little more for Bucklow Hundred than reprint Sir Peter Leycester; but he reprinted him errors and omissions included, rarely, if ever, inserting any of the author's own corrections. And again quite lately, in the new edition of ORMEROD now passing through the press, Sir Peter's corrections and additions are not inserted, and appear to be quite unknown to the Editor. Surely this is scarcely right to the memory of Sir Peter Leycester, by far the greatest historian Cheshire has produced! Hence, too, it happens that MR. HUGHES sends you as new matter a paragraph of the greatest importance as regards family history, which has already been in print over 200 years, and yet has been ignored by all local writers and the copyists of Sir Peter Leycester.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

AUGUST 28, 1878.

Original Documents.

[225] PUBLISHING THE BANNS AT THE CHESTER HIGH CROSS.

As probably but few readers of THE SHEAF are aware how MARRIAGES were conducted in the Commonwealth times, when it was a misdemeanour or something worse for a clergyman to perform the ceremony, at all events in his church, we will give an example of one from the Register Book of HOLY TRINITY Parish, Chester:—

"Upon the 22nd day of June, in the year 1654, a marriage between William Mu'icnoux, of Neston, in the County of Chester, mariner, and Margaret Bellin, of Thornton, in the same county, spinster, was solemnised before the Worshipful John Johnson, Alderman and Justice of Peace within the City of Chester, and publication of an intention of that marriage having been first published at the Market

Cross, in Chester, three market days in three several weeks, that is, the 7th, the 14th, and the 21st days in the month of June, in the said year 1654; which marriage being performed by the said William and Margaret, according to an Act of the late Parliament, the said Justice of Peace pronounced them from henceforth to be Husband and Wife, in the presence of Thomas Humphreys and Robert Dentith, witnesses present at the said marriage."

The foregoing may be taken, from one or two points in the description, to have been a plebeian union. Here, on the contrary, is one of an aristocratic stamp, at which similar formalities were gone through, though possibly without the publication at the Market Cross:—

"John Hurlston de Pickton, Esq., and Mrs. Mary Leigh were married the 11th of May, 1657, before William Crompton, Alderman and Justice of Peace within the City of Chester, Captain Daniel Bavant and Mr. John Reddish then present at the said marriage."

The bride on this occasion was a daughter of Thomas Leigh, Esq., of Adlington Hall. Both husband and wife lie in the family burying place at Plemondstall, near Chester. T. HUGHES.

[226] FRANCIS BASSANO.

From the *Letters and Papers of Gregory King, Lancaster Herald, and Samuel Stebbing, Somerset Herald, 1680—1717*,—Harl. MS., 6944, I have culled the following Letter from FRANCIS BASSANO, who seems to have succeeded the HOLME family in their business as Herald Painters at Chester:—

"Chester, Aug. ye 11. 1714.

"S^r,—I am in hopes to perswade some of our parishes to put their pulpits in mourning, and to have a Soutcheon of the Queen's Arms. I humbly beg you will let me know what manner will be most proper to depict the Arms—whether in a losinge with ye Garter an the Crown over it; or with supporters and mantling. I beg your answer so soon as you conveniently can, in which you will infinitely oblige your very humble servant to command,

FRANCIS BASSANO.

Direct for me in Chester."

The Temple. B. WILBRAHAM JONES.

[FRANCIS BASSANO, the writer of this letter, was not unlikely an alien by descent. He came to Chester some time prior to 1711, in which year he was admitted to the Freedom of the city as "Francis Bassano, Gentleman." He commenced business about this time as a Herald Painter, probably as successor to the last Randle Holme, one of whose daughters Lysons (*Magna Britannia*) suggests he may have married. He certainly possessed several of Holme's Books, Manuscripts, and Drawings, some of which, passing through the hands of successive herald-painters, were sold in Chester during the present generation. In 1718, the Dean and Chapter Records shew him to have been at work on the decoration of the Cathedral choir,—one entry being,

"Nov. 12. Paid Mr. Bassano for work about the Organ, ————04: 10: 00."

In the year 1734, having some years previously become a member of the Corporation, he served the office of Sheriff of Chester. He held moreover the office of "Deputy Chester Herald," like his predecessor Holme had done; and in 1747 he died, his Will being proved at Chester on the 16th of Sept. of that year. Two or more genealogical volumes of his, in MS., are in the Heralds' College library, having been presented half a century ago by the brothers Lysons, after the completion of their *History of Cheshire*.

EDITOR.]

Notes.

[227] A CHESTER MAYOR'S FIRST START IN LIFE.

I quote the following incident from a packet of MS. Papers formerly the collection of the late Denis Sweeney of Chester. The chief magistrate to whom he refers was a personal friend and well known to him, and he probably received the information at first-hand:—

"RICHARD BUCKLEY, Esq., Mayor of Chester, died July 17, 1832, at the latter end of his Mayoralty. He was a Wine Merchant, and his place of business was in Watergate Street, opposite to "God's Providence House." In his early life he was for many years a servant to Counsellor Haywood of Chester, who at his death left his wardrobe and all that was in it to Mr. Buckley. On taking the clothes and other articles out of the wardrobe, he discovered a considerable sum of money. Thinking that this did not strictly belong to him, he immediately gave it up to the heir, who in the most handsome manner returned it, as the reward of his strict honesty. This, with a small legacy, seems to have given the first start in business to a man who ultimately became, and died, MAYOR OF CHESTER."

L. L.

[228] CHESHIRE FEMALE DWARF.

Among the early attractions of Bartholomew Fair, the year after the Great Fire in London, 1666, we have the following "Wonder of Nature." There was then on view,

"At Mr. Croome's, at the sign of the Shoe and Slap, near the Hospital Gate in West Smithfield, a Girl above Sixteen Years of age, born in CHESHIRE, and not above Eighteen inches long; having shed her teeth several times, and not a perfect bone in any part of her, only the head; yet she hath all her senses to admiration, and discourses, reads very well, sings, whistles, and all very pleasant to hear, GOD SAVE THE KING!"

The Thomasina Thumb—writes Mr. Henry Morley in his *Memoirs of Bartholomew Fair, 1859*, from which

I quote as above,—lacked not her Barnum, it seems, even in the year of grace, 1667. T. T.

[229] BREAKING OUT OF CHESTER GAOL.

(Continued from last week.)

"[Ma. Anderton, J.P., Chester, to the Duke of Ormonde's Secretary.]

Chester, 1st Nov., 1683.

Dear Sir,

The Brenans I in my last gave you an acc't of their being apprehended & made prison's in ye Northgate (our City Gaol), as being persons proscribed by Proclamacione in Ireland; these miscreants took an opportunity last night to fall on our Gaoler and his wife, & another who was ye Gaoler's assistant, overpowered them, got ye keys of ye Prison, enlarged themselves, took a Scotchman that was a prisoner with them, lockt ye doors after them, & so are escaped!

The bearer is sent expressly with hue and cry after them, & if he doth not meet w'th them before he reaches Lond'n, I have ordered him to deliver these to you, & beg of you to acquaint his Grace, that such orders may be given as may probably prove effectual for their apprehension. The Sherifffes who here comand in the Gaole are my particular friends; for their seekes I earnestly crave yo'r favour therin, which I shall thankfully acknowledge, who am S'r

Yor. faithful Se'vt.

MA. ANDERTON.

For Mr. Sec'etry Gascoyne
att ye Duke of Ormonds
in James Square, Lond'n.

[The Mayor of Chester to the Duke of Ormonde.]

May it please your Grace,

I am exceedingly troubled that there is occasion to give your Grace an account of the escape of the three Brenans: there is a boy about thirteen years of age, called Danil Brennan, Brother to one of them, still continues in Custody. By the inclosed Examinations of the three first witnesses, your Grace will finde that I have not been wanting in commanding the Keeper sufficiently to secure them, & to have a Guard upon them for his better assistance at my charges, and also the Sherifffs of the City who have the custody of the Gaol, and to whom the Keeper gives a thousand Pounds securitie for his faithful execucon of that trust. I have several times given him the like charge, who answereth his life for theirs that they should be secured, & he now stands to answer for his miscarriages. I have also sent the enclosed letter from one Dennis Brennan, not knowing but they may be of some use in order to a further discovery of theire designes. Immediately upon notice of their escape I did cause them to be pursued every way by men and horses & also by Hew and Cry, in order to the retaking of them, and which I refer to your Graces consideration, & remain

Your Graces most obedient Servant,

WILL. STREETE, Mayor.

Chester, 8 Novembr.,
1683.

To his Grace the Duke of Ormonde,
London.

[Enclosed with the Mayor of Chester's Letter.]

Sirs—Upon Satturday last I happen to here of y'r being confined in Chester; y't same day I wroct with the post to one alderman Street, who lives in Chester, that he should for my sake deliver you a letter which I did Inclose in his Letter; also that he should appeare a friend to you in any Lawfull thing that would lay in his power: for fear y't he has not don according to my expectation I send you this Letter, desiring you to send me a copy of ye witness, & yt with all ye speed meaginable. direct y'r letter to me thus—ffor Cap'n Brennan at his Lodging at one Mr. Dason a joyner next door to ye Sine of the Coffin in hungerford market near chering Cross.

I am your Loving Cousssen

DENNIS BRENNAN.

London

hast! hast!

October ye 30

These for the two Butlers that lately arrived in Chester out of Ireland, and are prisoners in the prison of Chester

hast!

[Also enclosed with the Mayor of Chester's Letter.]

City of }
Chester } Examinations taken upon oath in the City of Chester before Henry Lloyd, William Ince, William Wilme, and John Anderson, aldermen and justices of the Peace of the said City. The first day of November 1683, anno r' Caroli S'c'di nunc anglie &c, 35.

Thomas Clarke, of the City of Chester, Inholder, maketh oath that there having bene an intention of an agreement between Richard Wright, under keeper of the said Gaol of the Northgate of the said City, & this depon't to be his deputie in the said place, did occasion this depon't to be frequently with him in the said Gaol; whereupon he tooke notice of the said Mr. Wright's care and management of the said place, for the securing of prisoners committed to his custody: further this deponent saith, that for the most part since theire commitment he was with the said Mr. Wright in the said Gaol; whoe did constantly attend there, and, soe farr as this deponent could perceive very watchfull of them & continued the irons upon them, & would not goe to bedd himself till he was satisfied that they were well secured: and tould this dep't that hee thought it convenient this depon't should see and observe his care & managem't of his prisoners, to the end it might informe and instruct him how to govern himself when hee undertooke the same charge; and further this dep't saith that yesterday in the afternoone, he was with Mr. Wright in the said Gaol, & in company with the said three men, & continued there till very neere nine of the clock att night; and then went away, leaving Mr. Wright & them together in the hall of the said Gaol, they being then well ironed, and Mr. Wright sober, and the said prisoners

very quiet and peaceable; and did not att any time since thiere commitm't, in this deponents presence or hearing, any way misbehave themselves towards the said Mr. Wright or any of his family.

THOMAS CLARK.

Queries.

[230] EDWARD BUNGHALL, VICAR OF ACTON.

This celebrated Puritan preacher and writer, the son of a respectable yeoman of Bunbury, and who became first of all Usher and afterwards Head Master of the Grammar School of his native village, was for many years Vicar of the neighbouring parish of Acton. He resided in the locality throughout the Civil War, and wrote a *Diary* of events during that stirring period, under the title of *Providences Improved*, which is of high local interest, and has been several times reprinted. He died somewhere about the date of the Restoration, and must have been buried either at Acton, Bunbury, or one of the neighbouring village churches. Perhaps some student of county history will state where his remains lie, and whether there exists any monument or other inscription to his memory?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[231] OLD OAK COFFIN AT ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER.

Can any correspondent kindly furnish a history or description of the coffin that is built up in the ruins of St. John's Church? In the coffin the words "Dust to dust" are painted, as is, I dare say, generally known. Any particulars will oblige myself, and no doubt many others.

Steam Mill-street.

J. H.

[232] WYBUNBURY CHURCH TOWER.

Forty years or so ago this handsome old tower was a terror to the beholder. Either from the ground beneath it giving way, or from some other equally serious cause, it had gradually departed many feet from the perpendicular, and the angle of deflection was continually increasing year by year. The parishioners, I suspect, took the danger in hand in time, and by some means or other they (or some clever fellow for them) restored the tower to its vertical position, which it even yet retains. I don't myself live in the locality, or I would not trouble you with this Query: but I have often thought to enquire into the facts, and the opportunity has now risen up before me in the *apropos* establishment of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF, to whose active staff I therefore appeal.

A FREEMASON.

[233] OLD PLANS OF CHESTER.

I think some of your Chester correspondents would be doing very valuable service if they would publish in your columns a full list of all the old Plans of Chester, arranged chronologically, giving any special particulars about each of them. This would also serve to show the gradual growth of the city, and would bring to light many curious facts now forgotten. The *largest* Plan of the city which I remember to have seen is one about which I should be glad to have some further particulars. It is about 2ft. 10in. wide by 2ft. 4in. in length, and bears the following title "PLAN of the CITY AND CASTLE OF CHESTER, Survey'd and Drawn by Alexander De Lavaux, Engineer." It is not dated, but bears the following dedication: "To the Rt. Hon'ble. George, Earl of Cholmondeley, Governour & Chamberlain of the City and Castle of Chester, and Lord Lieutenant and Custos of the said County, This Plan is most humbly inscrib'd by His Lordship's most Obed't and most Devoted Servant, Alexander De Lavaux." Above this dedication are the arms and supporters of Cholmondeley.

When was this Plan published?—is it one of a set of plans of cities and towns?—and who was Alexander De Lavaux?—and what brought him to Chester?

It may be worth noting that two MAYPOLES are shown on this Plan, the one called "the Northgate May Pole," at the junction of "the Liverpool Road" and "Parkgate Road," and near to a house marked "Jno Egerton's Esq.," the other called "the Hand-bridge May Pole," and situated on the other side of the city, where "the Flintshire Road" and "the Way to Eaton boat" met, and some little distance from the river.

Withington.

J. P. FARWAKER.

[234] CHESHIRE OAK TREES.

This county was once famous for the number and unusual girth of its ancient OAKS. Is this the case still,—and where in Cheshire are now to be seen any giant specimens of our grand old national monarchs of the forest?

A WOODMAN.

Replies.

[235] CHESTER BANKS.

[Nos. 38, 117, 142.—May 15, June 26, July 10.]

I have read with interest several communications regarding Banking establishments in the old city, but do not find mention of one in Whitefriars. The house lately in my occupation, No. 14, was undoubtedly the place of business of Messrs. THOMAS & HESKETH, Bankers. It is so pointed out in the plan of Chester appended to Aikin's *History of Manchester* and

Surrounding Country. It had evidence of having been a Bank; for the door frame leading from the front hall to the garden had the word "Bank" painted on either side, which was plainly visible, though it had been painted over. The house occupied and owned by Mr. Job Harrison is called BANK HOUSE; but this arises I believe from the circumstance that Mr. Thomas lived there, and, being distributor of stamps for the district, used that house as his office. I cannot at present fix the time when this Bank ceased to exist; but the premises were purchased by the grandfather of the late Mr. Richard Barker, and the house was rebuilt, using many of the old materials. In the cellar was an old carved oak post, attached to the cellar stairs.

T. DAVIES-COLLEY.

Newton.

[236] THE ROFT, GRESFORD.

[Nos. 74, 119, 145.—June 5, 26, July 10.]

It may appear somewhat perilous to attribute an Anglo-Saxon origin to the name of any locality in Wales; yet I cannot help thinking that the Anglo-Saxon *Rof* (or *Hrof*) is the word which has descended to us as *The Rof*. As a substantive, *Rof* signified the roof, top, or highest part of a building: (hence our modern word roof); but was employed as an adjective, for renowned, famous, &c. Used in the sense of a summit, or as a place of renown, either origin is applicable. Rochester, i.e., Rofe-ceaster, is a good example of the name of a place being thus derived.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[237] ROMAN ALTAR AT CHESTER.

[No. 153.—July 17.]

The Altar to Æsculapius and Solus, found near the Watergate in 1799, was presented by me to the British Museum, shortly after I came into possession of the Family Estates, as it was suffering much from exposure.

Oulton Park.

P. M. GREY-EGERTON.

[238] ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

[No. 167.—July 24.]

I should have been inclined to think that the existence of a Church at Chester dedicated to ST. VINCENT, must be a mistake, were it not for the fact that in an ancient manuscript in the collection of Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes, M.A., the church is incidentally mentioned by an unknown scribe of the late 16th or early 17th century. The paragraph, which I have seen, is to the effect that "the Churche of St. Vincent, and the Blaque Friars, in the citie of Chester were founded by..... Bishop of Chester. They grey friars in ye same citie were founded by K. John." I find no other trace of the church in any local records thus far accessible to me: doubtless if any reader of THE SHEAF should chance to be more successful, he will make the fact known.

T. H.

[239]

ST. AGANIPPA.

[No. 183.—July 31.]

Saint Aganippa, for whom your correspondent "H." enquires, is not to be found in any Calendar of Saints. It is clearly the name of Aganippe, the mystic spirit, who was supposed to preside over the fountain of the same name, which rose at the foot of Mount Helicon in Boeotia, and, like it, was sacred to the muses. It was celebrated for the purity of its waters, and was supposed to awaken the genius of poetry in those who drank of it.

No doubt the Well in question has had this classic name given to it on account of the purity of its water, but popular error has transformed the heathen AGANIPPE into the Saint Aganippa. Whether any poetic genius has sprung up in the neighbourhood from drinking of the well, your correspondent will perhaps know.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

"AGANIPPE, the name of a celebrated fountain at the foot of Mount Helicon. It flows into the Permessus (a river of Boeotia, so called from Permessus, father of the nymph Aganippe), and is sacred to the muses who, from it, were called Aganippædes."

M. A. M.

[240] A WELSH PEARL IN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

[No. 185.—July 31.]

Pearls in the Conway seem at one time to have been famous, and the one said to be conspicuous in the Royal Crown, is mentioned by that able Welsh scholar and archæologist, Canon Williams, in his *History of Aberconwy*. This was given by Sir Richard Wynne, of Gwydir, chamberlain to Catherine, queen of Charles the Second, to her majesty. Mr. Williams says, "There are two kinds of mussels found in the Conwy, from which pearls are obtained; *mysa margaritifera*, *cragen y diluw*, and the *mytilus edulis*, *cragen las*." The former, of which old topographers tell marvellous stories, were found near Trefriw, about a mile from Gwydir Castle; and it was one of them that Sir Richard "presented at Court." Pennant, I think, does not allude to these pearls in his *Tours*, but he gives a portrait of Sir Richard Wynne, engraved by Bartolozzi, which is, without doubt, the most beautiful illustration of his book. This picture, I may remark, has just been reproduced by photo-lithography, and will shortly be published in a new edition of the *History of the Gwydir Family*, now in the press.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. E.

[241] A TOPOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY.

[No. 197.—Aug. 7.]

The following—copied some time back into *Bye-gones* from a newspaper of 1794—will match the TOPOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY presented to your readers by "J. P. E."—

"At the bottom of a wood belonging to William Turton, Esq., of Knolton Hall, in the county of Flint, is a rill of water called Shelbrook, which empties itself into the Dee, and, when you have a foot on each side, you are—in the Kingdom of England and the Principality of Wales, in the province of Canterbury and the province of York, in the diocese of Chester and in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, in the county of Flint and in the county of Salop, in the hundred of Maelor and in the hundred of Oswestry, in the parish of Ellesmere and in the parish of Overton, in the township of Knolton and in the township of Sodyllt, in Mr. Turton's grounds and in his neighbour's."

The Irishman's bird was only supposed to be in two places at the same time, but here a biped was able to be in sixteen!

A. B.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1878.

Original Documents.

[242] A RUNAWAY APPRENTICE.

The accompanying document has just met my eye while turning over the leaves of the MAYOR'S COURT BOOK for 1593, in the muniment-room of the Chester Town Hall:—

"xxjmo, die Novembris, 35 Elizabeth.

"Richard Weston, son of Humphrey Weston, of the city of Chester, glover, deceased, William Throp, of the same city, skynner, and Thomas Harvy, of the same city, glover, bound by John ffytton, Mayor, in the sum of xl. li. to Thomas Halwood, of the city of London, Citizen and Ironmonger.

"The Condit'ion of this Recognizance is suche, That whereas complaint is made to the said Maior on the behalf of thabove named Thom's halwod, againste thabove bounden Ric: Weston, for that he beinge app'ntice to the said Thom's halwod, as app'eth by certifiat vnder the hande and seale of Thomas Wilford, Chamb'laine of the Cittie of London, hath, w'thout any resonable cause within his terme dep'ted from such his s'vice, w'thout his said M'r's licence. Whereupon the said Ric: Weston confessinge that he was bounden App'ntice w'th the said Thomas halwod, alledgeth he dep'ted out of that his s'vice by his said M'r's Licence, and not otherwise, and yet hath yelded to retorne into his said s'vice.

"Therefore, if the said Ric: Weston, before the feaste daie of the Purificacon of bleassed Mary the Virgin next ensuinge the daie of the date of these p'tes, do retorne into the sight and s'vice of the said Thom's halwod, if he, the said Thom's halwod shall be w'thin the Cittie of London at such time as the said Richard Weston shall make such proffer of his s'vice at the now dwelling house of the said Thom's halwod, w'thin the said Cittie of London, or ells wher w'thin the same City of london: Or, in default

thereof and that the said Thom's halwod shal be then out of the Cittie of london or Realme, wherby the said Ric: Weston can not yelde him self into his said M'r's sight & s'vice before the said feaste; That then if he the same Ric: Weston, before the said feaste daie, doe p'sonally app'e before the Chamb'laine of the Cittie of london, and doe stande vnto and p'forme such order as the said Chamb'laine shall take touchinge ye said App'nteship of the said Ric: Weston, That then this Recognizance to be Voide, or ells yt to stand in force and Vertue."

JOHN FFYTTON, maior.

I am able from the FREEMEN'S ROLL of Chester city to say, that all the parties concerned, excepting of course Mr. Wilford, the London Chamberlain, were Chester men. THOMAS HALWOOD, the master, was admitted to the Freedom of Chester in 1584, and departed thence soon after to London to commence business there: this accounts, too, for a Chester boy becoming bound to him as his apprentice. The "run-away" difficulty must have been speedily put right, for, in the year following that of the bond, Richard Weston returned to his native city, at all events for awhile, and was sworn a Freeman "by birth," as the son of Humphrey Weston, glover.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[243] BREAKING OUT OF CHESTER GAOL.

(Continued from last week.)

"Richard Wright, underkeeper of his Ma'ts. Gaol or Prison of the Northgate, of the City of Chester, maketh oath that the nineteenth day of October last he received into his custody the three men named in the former depositions; & by Mr. Maiors order, signified unto him by severall of the Constables of the said city, did in their presence search the said men, & took from them what money & papers wear about them; & did also well iron & shackle them on both their legges, & did continue the said irons upon them; & every night saw them in their bedds, and double ironed and lookt in their beds, and took from them their clothes & secured them till the next morning. And further this depon't saith that yesterevening about eight of the clock, the said three men being well ironed did supple with the depon't in the lower rooms, called the hall of the said prison; & were then very peaceable & quiet whilst Mr. Thomas Clarke, in the former depositions named, continued with them, which was till it began to toll nine of the clock, & then took his leave & went his way, leaving there this depon't & one Thomas Greene, a prisoner in the said Gaol, in company together in the said rooms. And in less than halfe an hour after the said Mr. Clarke was gone, the said Thomas Greene said, "now I believe Captain Clarke," meaning

the said Thomas Clarke, "is gott home," upon which James O Brennan, one of the said three men, spoke in Irish to the other two. And thereupon immediately the other James O Brennan, called little James, drew a naked knife out of his pocket, and suddenly in a violent manner struck at this depon't's throat therewith, hee sitting next him, which the depon't upon receiving defended his throat with lifting up his arms, & received the wound into the rist of his left arm, upon which the depon't cryed out murder: and then the said James swore "G— d— mee, if thou speak another word I will presently cutt thy throat!" and therefore flung this depon't downe & thrust his head under the bedd there, & lay upon him & stamp't upon him with his knees; & swore desperately that if hee did cry out or make resistance hee would instantly cutt his throat, having then the knife in his hands. Upon which this depon't to save his life (being then in so great danger) did say hee would not cry out: but hee said hee would not believe him unless he would swear it; & therefore Patriok O Brennan, the other of the three men, fetched a booke & made this depon't swear by the contents thereof that he would not cry out or resist them, & they swore they would not kill him. And at the same time the said James O Brennan, called tall James, did make the like assault upon the said Thomas Greene, & attempted to cut his throat with a knife, & wounded him very ill in the head & alsoe in his face, and had almost killed him to apprehension. & the said Patrioke seised this depon't's wife, flung her downe, & swore that if she cryed out or made any noise hee would instantly kill her; & when they had thus secured this depon't, his wife, and the said Thomas Greene, the said Patriok having observed where this depon't's closett was where lay his keys & a sword & a Tuck, went thither, fetched the keys & the said sword & Tuck; & with these keys opened theire locks, and took of their irons, & shackled the said Thomas Greene; & drew the said sword & Tuck & held the point to the depon't's breast, saying if he spoke a word he was a dead man. And then the said Patriok searched the depon't's pockett, & took out thence the keyes of the outward and inward doores of the said Gaol: and thereupon the said James O Brennan, called little James, told this depon't that there was a prisoner for debt in the Gaol, a Scotchman, whose name is William Browne, whom they must have along with them, and threatened still to kill this depon't if he would not consent. Upon which this depon't did then say, "you may do as you please;" and then they called him down from his chamber, who stood ready upon the staires: and after they had made said depon't's wife and the said Thomas Greene swear not to make any noise or to resist them, they opened the door, and the said Browne came down to them; and as soone as he came to them they blew out the candle, opened the doores, and tooke away the keyes. Upon which this depon't went up staires to see whether the rest of the prisoners for debt were safe, and, finding they were, did imme-

diately cry a loud murder! murder!: upon which they returned to the doore, and would have opened it to come in again to have killed this depon't, & the said Thomas Greene, and this depon't's wife, as hee verily beleives; but this depon't had boulded the doore on the inside and thereby prevented them. And presently after one Danniell Soofton came to this depon't, and called him, saying "what is the matter?" which this depon't told him, and caused the said Thomas Greene to open the doore by a cleaver. And shortly after Alderman Wilme came in, to whom this depon't declared how the said prisoners had made their escape. And the said Alderman Wilme and this depon't did forthwith on demand despatch severall men with horses to goe severall wayes to pursue them, and caused the Hue and Crye to be made after them in order to the retaking of them. And further this depon't said that none of the said three men, neither by themselves nor any person or persons whatsoever on their behalfe, did ever offer or promise any reward to this depon't to suffer them to escape, but did really make their escape out of the said gaol in a manner as this depon't saith; that during the time of their continuance in the said gaol he never received any money from them, save that which he found upon them at the time when he searched them as aforesaid, which hee secured, and gave Mr. Maior an account thereof.

RICHARD WRIGHT.

Thomas Greene, a prisoner in the North Gate, of the city of Chester, for debt, and Frances Wright, wife of the before named Richard Wright, make oath to the same effect."

[244] THOMAS MALLORY, DEAN OF CHESTER,
(1607-1644).

In this brief account of Dean Mallory and of his family, to be continued in a subsequent communication, some details are incorporated which have no place in the notices in Helsby's *Ormerod* and *Earwaker's East Cheshire*. The Mallory family belonged to Yorkshire, and was of some antiquity. The most celebrated member of it was that Sir Thomas, "a servant of Jesu both night and day," perhaps, therefore, a priest, who was the "maker" of the *Morte d'Arthur*, completed in the year 1470, and printed by Caxton at Westminster in 1485. Leland in his *Itinerary* names the two seats of the family, one of them "caullyd *High Studly*, a little from *Fountaines*." In 1565 a Sir Richard Mallorye was Lord Mayor of London.

Dean Mallory, born about the year 1566, was the sixth son of Sir William Mallory, of Stewdley, Knt., who entered a pedigree at the Visitation of 1584-5 (Forster, pp. 156-8). He was educated at Cambridge, and destined for the Church. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Vaughan, Bishop of Chester (1597-1604), who gave him his first important preferments. About 1603 (7th Nov.) he was made Archdeacon of Richmond, which he resigned on becoming Dean of

Chester in 1607 (*Le Neve*, iii., 267), being installed in the latter dignity 25th July, 1607 (iii., 264), or, according to A' Wood's editor (*Ant. Oxon.* iv., 839) and Sir Peter Leicester (page 321), in the former year, 1606. On 11th Oct., 1619, he purchased the advowson of Mobberley Church from Andrew Carrington, of Mobberley, gent., and he himself became parson of that church in 1621. He seems to have been a keen watcher of the course of events which brought about the revolution in 1642. In 1641 he was one of four other well-known clergymen, most active in their diocese, to whom John Ley, the vicar of Great Budworth, dedicated his *Defensive Doubts*, 4to., on the Etcetera Oath. But unlike Mr. Ley's other "very reverend and worthy friends and brethren," Mallory and his sons, at least five in number, became active adherents of the King. In November, 1642, he was forced to fly from his Rectory House at Mobberley. According to Walker (*Sufferings of the Clergy*, ii. 305, 11), he found refuge in Chester, where he lived sequestered from both his personages. On Wednesday, 3rd April, 1644, he died at the Dean's House in Palace-yard, aged about 78; and he was buried in the Quire of his Cathedral Church.

Eleven children appear in the Pedigree (Helsby's *Ormerod*, i. 421). The estates of the eldest, *Richard*, who was a joint proprietor of the advowson of Northenden in 1634-5, were put under sequestration, and he compounded for them at a cost of £193 16s. Od. *William*, born 1606, is said to have been knighted at Davenham in 1642; *Thomas*, hereafter to be noticed, was Rector of Northenden, near Manchester; a *John* Mallory occurs in the *Army Lists* (p. 77) as a Lieut. in the V. Division of the army of the Earl of Northumberland in the Scotch expedition of 1640; *George* was acting as curate to his father at Mobberley in 1632 (Sir P. Leicester, p. 321); and there were besides two other sons, named *Avery* and *Edward*. They all appear to have suffered during the troubles; and no less than five of them lost their lives in the service of Charles I. The Dean's elder brother, Sir John Mallory, of Studley, was under the necessity of compounding for his estates for £2,219. The Dean's son-in-law, Rev. George Wyrley, succeeded to the Rectory of Mobberley; but he too was sequestered soon after, though he regained the living at the Restoration, together with the Rectory of Loughton, near Waltham, in Essex. His death occurred in 1673 (*Newcourt's Repertorium*, ii. 396).

A note in the parish register of Mobberley asserts that Wyrley, who was M.A., was instituted to the Rectory of Mobberley by Bp. Bridgeman, 8 April, 1644, but that he was sequestered afterwards, and so continued. But this latter statement is scarcely correct, because on 15 Oct., 1647, the House of Lords had before them a certificate from the Assembly of Divines that Wyrley had been approved for the cure of Mobberley (Mobberley), in the county of Chester.

He was the son of Humphrey Wyrley, of Hamfstead

Hall, co. Stafford, Esq., and brother to Sir John Wyrley, Knt.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[245]

BEAU ASTLEY.

From Willis' *Current Notes*, Vol. 7, 1857, I cull the following bit of Cheshire biography, which I think well worthy of preservation in the "SHEAF" museum:—

"JOHN ASTLEY, born at Wem, in Shropshire, the son of a medical practitioner, was placed by his father under the tuition of Thos. Hudson, the leading portrait painter of that day (1740-50). How long he remained there is uncertain, but on quitting Hudson he went to Rome, where he and Sir Joshua Reynolds met. He was one of the Extraordinaries of his time. On his return to England, after a few months stay in London, he went to Dublin, and in about three years acquired, by his pencil, three thousand pounds. Again returning to England, he travelled in his own chaise, with an outrider; and was painting on his way to London, when, visiting with another gentleman Knutsford Assembly, Lady Duckinfield Daniels, then present, was so struck with his fine, gentlemanly appearance, that she contrived to sit to him for her portrait, and proffered him in marriage the original, which he wisely accepted. They were married in January, 1760, but she soon after died; and after the decease of her idiot daughter by Sir William Daniel, Astley inherited the whole of the Cheshire estates, estimated at £5,000 per annum. With this accession of fortune he purchased Sohomberg House in Pall Mall, and divided it into three, retaining the centre for himself. It was said of him that he owed his fortune to his form, his follies to his fortune."

In the decline of his life, "Beau Astley," as he was generally called, appeared to be harassed by reflections upon his dissipated conduct, and when near his end was not without apprehensions of being reduced to indigence and want. He died at his house, Duckinfield Lodge, Stockport, November 14th, 1787, and was buried at the Nonconformist Chapel, Duckinfield. T. T.

QUERIES.

[246] "RUSH BEARING" OR "RUSH BURYING."

What is the origin of the affecting and interesting custom bearing the above title,—and how long has it existed?

It appears to have been a time-honoured observance in the parishes of FARNDON, HOLT, ALDFORD, CODDINGTON, TILSTONE, ISSACORD, and, I believe, GRESFORD, annually to tastefully and reverently lay rushes and flowers on the graves and tombstones of departed friends.

In the former Parish (Farndon) the 16th July or first Sunday afterwards has, by common consent, been the day usually fixed for the observance: but whether this has reference to any particular tradition, or whether the custom is retained, or ever existed in any other districts, except that of which FARNDON is the centre, perhaps some contributor may be better able to say than Saughton. W. M. B.

Replies.

[247]

SIR PETER PYNDAR.

[No. 141, 191.—July 10, 31.]

The following extract from the CHRISTLETON Parish Register Book (1673—1688-9) shows that at that time Sir Peter Pyndar was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Chester. The extract is literal, and is as follows:—

"Comt. Cestr. I, Sir PETER PYNDAR, Baronet, one of his Ma'tys Justices of ye peace for ye s'd County, doe hereby certifie that ye day and yeare above s'd the s'd Tho. Sayers came before me, and made ye above written affidavit according to a late act of Parl'm't entitled 'An act for burying in woollen': witness my hand ye day and yeare first above written.
PET. PYNDAR."

The following is a specimen of an affidavit of the kind alluded to, though not the identical one; it is taken from the CHRISTLETON Parish Register Book:—

"Com. Cest. Thomas Johnson, of Christleton in ye County of Chester, made oath ye 17th day of July 1680, that JOHN EGERTON of ye Towne and Parish of CHRISTLETON, in ye County afores'd, senior, was not put in, wrapt, wound upp, or buried in any shirt, shift, sheete, or swounde, made or mingled wth either Hemp, flaxe, haire, silke, silver, gould, or in any other materiall w'tsoever; nor in any coffin, lined or faced w'th any cloth or stuffe, or any other materiall, but naked in ye sayd coffin amongst flowers only: ye afores'd affidavit was witnessed by ye hands & seales of John Davies & Hen. Jackson, & certified by Sir PETER PYNDAR, Barronet."

Christleton.

S. EARLAM.

[248]

LORD CHANCELLOR EGERTON.

[No. 164—July 24.]

The monument to the memory of THOMAS, BARON EGERTON, OF ELLESMERE, and Viscount de Brackley, who died in 1617, is still in DODLESTON CHURCH, on the north side of the tower, where it was placed when the church was restored in 1870. There is also another monument by its side to the memory of one Elizabeth, of the Egerton family, who died in 1588. Another stone in the floor bears the name of THOMAS EGERTON, but the inscription is so worn out as to be quite illegible.

The first monument referred to is of white marble, and was, I am told, originally erected in 1829 by one of the family, who sent £100 to the Rector, ARCHDEACON WHANGHAM, for the purpose. The other bears traces of much greater age. Both have the arms of the Egertons in heraldic colours.

It is said that the above mentioned THOMAS EGERTON was, as a boy, running barefooted about DODLESTON, but afterwards rose to be Lord Chancellor of England under Queen Elizabeth. Any further information about him will be very interesting to me.

Doddleston.

G. M.

[249]

ABBOT'S WELL, CHRISTLETON.

[No. 169.—July 24.]

THE ABBOT'S WELL was, over 30 years ago, converted into a fishpond. The pond is still in existence. It lies near the middle of the field in which the house known as CHRISTLETON BANK was built. As long as it remained a well, it was equally noted for the purity of its waters and its never-failing supply.

Christleton.

S. EARLAM.

What was formerly known as THE ABBOT'S WELL, is now an ornamental pond in the grounds of the house occupied by the late Ambrose Dixon, Esq., on the right of the road leading from Chester to Christleton, and adjoining the railway. The fields around were known as the "Well Fields." I understand that traces have been found, in several places, of the pipes which conducted the water from the Well to the Abbey. Can any one say when they were laid down, or give any information about them?

Doddleston.

G. M.

[250]

DR. D. D. OF. B.

[No. 210.—Aug. 14.]

There can, I think, be little or no doubt that John Ley's "very reverend and worthy friend," about whom Mr. J. E. BAILEY enquires as above, was Dr. Thomas Dod, Dean of Ripon, formerly Rector of Astbury and Malpas, and a distinguished member of the family of Dod of Shocklach. Newcome, in his *Autobiography*, p. 4, refers to him as "that eloquent and famous preacher Dr. Thomas Dod, formerly of Astbury, the parish church to Congleton, where I several times (though then but a child) heard him preach." Place the vacant space between the two D's, instead of after the latter one, and his proper initials will be at once apparent.

T. H.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1878.

Original Documents.

[251] CHESTER CORPORATION QUARREL IN 1627.

The following Letter, disclosing the existence of a somewhat serious municipal feud at Chester, in the reign of Charles I. has been transcribed by me from the original in the DOMESTIC STATE PAPERS, Vol. 7:—

"Rt. Hon'ble and our verie good Lordes—

"We understand that two severall Letters have been lately sente unto your honors; one from the Maior and some fewe Aldermen, the other from the Maior, some fewe Aldermen, and some of the Com'on Counsell of the Cittie of Chester, containinge many complayntes against Robert Brerewood, Esquier, our Towne Clarke, and some others in the cittie (wherain we conceave ourselves

undeservedly aymed at), for sundrye misdemeanors by him and his under clarkes, and for turbulent and disobedient carriages in him and them towards the Maior and his governmente. first, we humblye crave pardon that we have not sooner appeared in iustificac'on of our owne innocenye; thinking it too meane a busines to interturbe your waightier and higher affayres, and desiring that it (being a cittyse cause) might without your honors trouble have been determined within the cittyse. But since our desires have not tooke effecte, and that it is your honors' pleasure to undergoe soe much trouble for our peace, we account Mr. Brerewood happie (and so we have heard himselfe professe) in that his cause shall have access unto the noble eares of soe just Judges. And whereas imputac'ons of tumult and miscarriage in his place have bene cast upon him (whom wee knowe to bee not only of good repute in his profession, but in all his acc'ons verie honest, as wee in our consciences are p'suaded); wee humbly beseeche your honours give us leave to acquaint your Lo'pps that wee are verily p'suaded, if an auncient discontent had not long burnt in the bosome of Mr. Brerewood's accuser, this fire had not bene kindled to the greates disturbance of the cittyse, w'ch hath till now for divers yeeres liv'd without storme. But because the particulars would bee too tedious and doe line [? extend] themselves to a multitude—wee the greater p'te of Aldermen (though we could enlarge the rowle to a greater extent than they have or could have done, as may appeare by a testimoniall signifying the opinions and desires of the maior p'te, by muche, of the house of Assemblie—wherewith Mr. Maior hath formerlie been acquainted, and a coppie whereof wee have made bould to presente to your honors heere inclosed) have presumed heerebye humblye to Petic'on and supplicate your honors, for the avoyding of infinite travell and charge, and for your honors better ease—that a referment may be made unto the Right Ho'ble William, Earle of Derby, the Lord Strange, Lord Leevetenantes and Chamberlaynes of our Countye, and to the Ho'ble Judges of the Greates Sessions for the Countye of Chester, or to any two or more of them, to examine upon oathe and certifie your honors the truthe of the complaints. for the which wee shall ever remaine, as wee alreadye are, your honors humblye devoted, and obedient servantes,

RAN: MAINWARING
THOS. SMITHE
WILLIAM GAMULL
JOHN RATCLIFFE
HUGH WILLIAMSON
ROBERT FLETCHER
ROBT. BERRY
ROBT. BLEASE
WILLIAM ALLEN
WILLIAM SPARKE
GODFREY WYNNE
THOMAS BYRD
CHA: WALLIE.

Chester, the xviith daye of Julye, 1627.

Endorsed: from the Maior and Aldermen of the City of Chester, about Robert Brerewood, Towne Clerke.

Sealed, and addressed "To the Rt. Hon'ble and our very good Lordes, the Lordes and others of his Ma'ties Moste ho'ble Privye Counsell, deliver these." Notting Hill Gate. R. M. B.

Notes.

[252]

MOW COP DIALECT.

The following are additional specimens of the Dialect of the locality:—

LIEF, as LIEF. As willingly; as soon.

"Brother," quod he, "here wonneth an old rebeck, That had almost as lief to lose her neck, As for to give a penny of her good."

—Chaucer, *C. T. The Friar's Tale*.

"Nay, an you be so tardy, come no more in my sight: I had as lief be wooed of a snail."

—Shakspeare. *As You Like It*, iv. 1.

LIEFER, or LEVER. Rather.

"They do but drivel thereon, draff were them lever, Than all precious pearls that in Paradise waxeth" (grow).

—Piers Plowman.

"Faire Christabelle, from thee to parte, Farre lever had I dye."

—Percy's *Reliques. Sir Launfal*.

"God it forbid," quod the priest, "what ye say. Yet had I lever spenden all the good Which that I have, (and elles were I wood), [mad] Than that ye should fallen in such mischief."

—Chaucer, *C. T. The Canon's Yeoman's Tale*.

"And of the twain, if choise were to me, Had lever my foe than my friend he be."

—Spenser. *The Shepherd's Calendar, May*.

"I'd liefer you'd hearn the truth concernin myseln fro my lips than fro onny other man's, though I never oud'n speak afore so monny, wi'out bein moydert and muddled."

—Dickens. *Hard Times*.

"Ye shall do a good work, daughter, in teaching this infirm lad; he can already say the Paternooster and Ten Hests in our mother tongue, not without some such glimpse of their meaning as God doth sometimes vouchsafe to his simple ones. It remaineth to perfect him in the Crede, the which he shall liefer learn from your lips than from another's."

—Frances M. Wilbraham. *The Queen's Badge*.

SIKE. Sigh. Anglo-Saxon, *sican*: from the sound.

"ALLE, that beoth of huerte trewe, A stounde herkneth to my song Of duel, that Deth hath dibt us newe, That maketh me syke, ant sorewe among."

—Percy's *Reliques*.

"When Aroite had ysung, he 'gan to *sike*."
—Chaucer, *C. T. The Knight's Tale*.

SNEAP. Snub, check, rebuke.

"I will not undergo this *sneap* without reply."
—Shakespeare. *II K. Henry IV.*, a. 11, s. 1.

SWOP. Exchange.

"We'se gie ae night's discharge to care,
If we forgather,
And hae a *swap* o' rhymin'-ware
W'ane anither."

—Burns.

BEZZLE, or BEZZEL. To drink greedily.

BLEETCH. A blow; suggestive of an open-handed smack. "I'll give thee a good *bleetch*."

GREET. Grit, gritstone ground or crushed into a kind of sand. *A.S.*, greet, grytt.

NITEM. Token or signal. "Oo gen him th' *nitem*."

SLOTCH. To spill, to slop.

SOG. To hit heavily. "I shall *sog* thee."

SUTTER. A blow, of such a character as would be likely to send a person staggering. "Ill fatch thee a good *sutter*."

TIN. Till, until. This word is constantly so used. Some years ago a distinguished person, rambling among the hills which separate the counties of Chester, Stafford, and Derby, was greatly delighted with the fresh, invigorating air, and jocularly asked a native, "Do people ever die here?" "Ay," was the prompt reply, "but we put'n that off *tin* th' last."

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[253] **BREAKING OUT OF CHESTER GAOL.**

(Concluded from last week.)

Mary Swettenham, servant to the before named Richard Wright, maketh oath that yesterday night about nine of the clock, this deponent saw one of the three men in the former depositions named make an assault upon her said master, with a nakid knife in his hand attempting to cut his throat. She took up the candlestick and quart, and flung the quart at him, upon which he struck att this depon't, and she shrinking back avoided it; and then found another of them upon her missis, and she not able to speake, and endeavouring to get him of her, he struck at her with a naked knife. And the other bade him stopp this depon't, for she was a devil; upon which, she being affrighted, went and lookt her self in the cellar, and there continued till they came and desired her to come out, and swore they would do her noe hurt. Upon which she did come forth, and they did her noe hurt, but spake her very faire; and one of them said unto her, "Sweet heart, you and I it may bee may meet again;" and she answered, "It may bee, in another country." And this depon't having a candle lighted in her hand, one of them bade her putt it out, but she did

not, but sett it downe; and then they putt out the candle, opened the doores, and went theire way, and lockt the outer doore after them.

MARY SWETTENHAM.
Her X mark.

Swore and examined before

Henry Lloyd.
Wm. Ince.
Wm. Wilme.
John Anderson.

All this is strange; but stranger still was it that they are next year back in Ireland, and with a band of brother-Tories, break into Kilkenny Castle, the Duke of Ormonde's chief residence in Ireland, and carry off the Duke's plate. But strangest of all, they are taken into protection in a few months afterwards by the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and allowed the use of their horses and travelling arms, on condition of discovery of their accomplices, and doing service (as it was called), that is, killing other Tories; the Grand Jury of the county of Kilkenny actually presenting it as their advice, that they should be taken into permanent protection as the very best course to suppress robberies and felonies in those parts of the kingdom!

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBSON, LL.D.

Queries.

[254] **THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.**

I have seven numbers, bound in a volume, of "THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER, or Companion to the *Chester Courant*," and would be very much obliged if you could inform me how many numbers were published. The date of the last number is October 24, 1814, and there are 166 pages in the volume. There may be others of your correspondents in THE SHEAF to whom the information would be acceptable.

Birkenhead.

JOSEPH MORRIS.

Replies.

[255] **FFOULKE SALISBURY.**

[No. 159, 203—July 24, Aug. 7.]

Mr. EWEN is quite correct in saying that MR. SALISBURY was buried at Chester in 1639, but, Mr. HUGHES is also as correct in his supposition, that he had retired to Wales before his death. In an old document, he is said to have been residing at Evenychtyd near Ruthin in January, 1638, having then succeeded, probably, to a small estate belonging to his father Henry Salisbury, "who died at Chester, 6th

October, 1637, being of great age." Mr. Williams, in his *Records of Denbigh*, has published a curious document, respecting this same Ffoulke, which is well worthy of reproduction in THE SHEAF, as an evidence of the vanity which could induce a respectable tradesman to set up his blood as a claim to distinction. It runs thus:—"This is truly copied from the original, w'ch was made for Mr. FFOULKE SALISBURY, to be produced for him in the Earle Marshall's Courte in the sute betwixt him and SAMUEL MARTYN, of Chester, Merchant, there dependinge, beinge for scandalous words spoken against the nation in generall, and the Salisburys and him the sayd FFOULKE SALISBURY in particular, by the said MARTYN; to w'ch I am wittnesse and procured the same descent."

RAND. HOLME OF CHESTER, ALDN.,
DEPUTY TO THE OFFICE OF ARMES.

"To all x'tian people to whom this present writing shall come to be seene or read, greetings, in our Lord God Everlastinge. Know ye that wheras Mr. FFOULKE SALISBURY, one of the 24 aldermen of the City of Chester, and also one of his Majesties Coroners for the said City, is desirous to have a Certyficate of his descent, that the same may appeare by good Testimony, for to remayne upon record for his future posterity; and also to clear all doubttes and questions, that ether now or hereafter may arise concerninge his progeny, hath requested us his kinsmen, beinge descended of the same blood and familey, under our hands for to certyfie the truth thereof, by this our Testimoniall: to w'ch his lawfull request and desier wee have yealded, as Christian charity byndeth us thereunto, to declare and relate the same, when and soe often as wee be thereunto desired,

Wherefore we doe certyfie that the sayd Mr. FFOULKE SALISBURY was borne at EVENIGHTED in the County of Denbigh, and was second sonne by birth, but now heyre, to HENRY SALISBURY of Evenighted aforesayd in the County of Denbigh, gent., lawfully begotten of Margery his wife, dau: of Peires Salisbure of Llanrayder in the sayd County, gent., w'ch sayd Henry dyed in Chester, 6 October 1637, beinge of great age; and was youngest sonne to Foulke Salisbure of Maes Kadarne in the said County, gent., lawfully begotten by Morvith his wife, daughter of Meredith Lloyd of Havodynus in the County of Carnarvon, Esq.; and the forsayd Foulke Salisbure was 3 sonne to Peires Salisbure of Bachymbyd, or Ruge, in the County of Denbigh, Esquire, lawfully begotten, by Margaret his first wife, daughter and heyre to Evan ap Holl, ap Rees, of Ruge, in the sayd County, Esq.; and the sayd Peires Salisbure was sonne and heyre to John Salisbure of Bachymbydd, in the County aforesayd, Esq., lawfully begotten of Lowrey his wife, dau. and heyre to Robt. ap Meredith ap Tudyr, Esq.; and the said John Salisbure was a younger sonne of Thomas Salisbure Hen of Lleweny in the County of Denbigh, Esq., and brother to S'r Thomas Salisbure, who was knighted at Blackheath-field, 1464, of whom is

descended S'r Thomas Salisbure of Lleweny, barronett, now livinge, both beinge lawfully begotten of the body of Ellen, daughter to S'r John Done of Utlington in the County of Chester, Kt."

We might have thought that such a descent as this should have sufficiently proved his "blood," but good old Ffoulke did not think so, and hence he harks back as follows:—

"The said THO: SALISBURY HEN was sonne and heyre to Henry Salisbure of Lleweny, Esqr., lawfully begott of Agnes, daughter and heyre to S'r John Curteys, Kt., and the said Henry was sonne and heyre to Rafe or Bawlyn Salisbure, sonne and heyre to William, sonne and heyre to Henry, sonne and heyre to S'r John, sonne and heyre to Thomas, sonne and heyre to Alexander, sonne and heyre to Adam Salisbure; all whos matches remayne to be seene in the severall pedegrees of the said families, from which this lyne mentioned in this Certyficate was carfully and diligently extracted, at the request of the sayd FOULKE SALISBURY; and for more verity herof, wee have hereunte subscribed our names the 14th day of November 1638."

This remarkable certificate is signed by thirty seven of the principal North Walian gentry, who rightfully claimed descent from THOMAS SALISBURY, *hen* of Lleweny; but, in nine months afterwards poor Ffoulke was dead, and in less than four months after that, his "sonne" Arthur had followed him to the home where the poor honours of this world count for nothing.

Two hundred years from that very year 1638, a friend of mine is asked by Ffoulke Salisbure, of some unknown place in the Western States of America, if he can help him to trace his descent from Alderman FFOULKE SALISBURY of Chester, "who was living in 1617, but who died soon after it is supposed." He might just as well have asked him to try and find a needle in a bottle of hay, but when is an American beaten who is in search of a pedigree? How the modern Ffoulke succeeded in making out his descent from Ffoulke the Alderman I know not: but he has done it through *Arthur Salisbure, son of Ffoulke, living A.D. 1686*, although the register of St. Peter's, Chester, declares the said Arthur to have been buried at Chester 13th Dec. 1639!! Truly the business of pedigree manufacture is fast becoming a nuisance, for go where you will, you meet with many scribes who copy names from tomb-stones; and when they have got a longish string of them they forthwith employ an unqualified *Rand. Holme* of modern days, to 'certifye' to dates of births, marriages and deaths, which have no real existence; and then a herald painter is set to work with his brush, or a portrait painter with his, and so by means of colours of various hues, we find the upper ten thousand of England and Wales multiplied by the score in America to the praise and glory of a rich merchant "who dearly loves a lord," much as he dialikes a Sovereign.

HUGH NANNY.

[We hope, and indeed believe, that the vice here condemned so justly by our energetic correspondent, is nothing like so common as he imagines. To our mind, there is no pursuit more engrossing or full of interest, than that of Genealogy, so long as its votaries keep strictly to such facts as they are honestly able to prove. To such students the columns of *THE SHEAF* will ever be open, whether it be to confirm the true, or to brand the false, in this important branch of history.

EDITOR.]

[256] **CHESTER CATHEDRAL TAPESTRY.**

[No. 186.—July 31.]

I have recently seen an engraved copper plate of this TAPESTRY, in which the figures forming the borders are omitted. The probable reason for this omission is that at the time this plate was engraved the space occupied by the TAPESTRY was not large enough to display the borders. The following is the inscription:—"To the Very Reverend Robert Hodgson, Dean of Chester, D.D., and all the Gentlemen of the Chapter, this plate is inscribed by their obliged obedient servant,

JAMES HUNTER.

Engraved by permission, printed and framed by J. Hunter, senr., Verger of Chester Cathedral, 1818."

A competent authority who has recently examined this Tapestry says that it was made at Mortlake, in the 17th century. This opinion agrees with a statement of Mr. THOS. HUGHES, made at a meeting of the CHESTER ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY in 1872,

"That in the Treasurers' books of the Dean and Chapter, to which he had had access through the Dean's kindness, there were several entries referring to the TAPESTRY, for instance, on the 28th of April, 1698, there was

Paid for cleaning the Tapestry at the altar £1 10 0
1699. Paid for mending altar cloth 0 6 10

Mr. Hughes at the same time produced an engraving of the tapestry done by a Verger of the Cathedral."

The following notice of this Tapestry is extracted from a book entitled "*Cartonensis*," by the Rev. W. Gunn, and may perhaps be interesting to the readers of *THE SHEAF*:—

"The ELYMAS kept in Chester Cathedral was perhaps made in this country, but after diligent enquiry as to the history of it, the result is imperfect. My informant says, 'No one knows whence it came, or where it was woven.' It is, however, supposed to be foreign, and has the appearance of being woven and sewed together. The dimensions of that part now visible are 16 by 11 feet; it has a border of fruits and flowers, but that is not now seen. It can be said to be only in a tolerable state of preservation. There is no record so far as can be ascertained, in any of the writings belonging to the Cathedral concerning it."

Bridge-street.

J. E. EWEN.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1878.

Original Documents.

[257] **STATIONERS' COMPANY, CHESTER.**

The following Document, under the hands of the Members of the STATIONERS' COMPANY at Chester, shews how keen was the jealousy with which the privileged traders of the city guarded their ancient rights against every kind of encroachment. Whether they succeeded in this instance in stopping the projected sale is not recorded; but to our 19th century eyes, it does seem a stretch of prerogative on the Stationers' part to interfere with the disposal, "by auction or otherwise," of a lot of Old Books which they had themselves probably once already sold to the deceased scholar.

"November ye 24th, 1713. At a Meeting of the COMPANY OF PAINTERS, GLASIERS, IMBRODERERS, AND STACIONERS, In the City of Chester, In the PHENIX TOWER, upon the complaint of Joseph Hodgson, of the same Company, Stacioner, setting forth that John Yeoman and James Whitfield of the City of Chester, Iornmongers, being interested in A certain Parcell of Books, late of the study of Mr. JONATHAN HARVEYS, Deceas'd; and ye said Mr. Yeoman and Mr. Whitfield designing, as we are credibly informed, to sell or dispose of the aforesaid parcell of Books, by Auction or otherwise, within the liberties of the City; and neither of them haveing served any Apprenticeship to the trade of a Stacioner, or being free of ye said Company, we Adjudge the same to be very Prejudicial and ditrementall, and contrary to the ancient rights and usage of the same Company. Therefore [we] do hereby promise to stand by, and defend by law, the said Joseph Hodgson against the said John Yeoman and James Whitfield, and all others that shall act contrary to this order.

As whitness our hands the day and year above said.

JO. HODGSON	RANDLE BINGLEY
THO. CROXTON	WILL. CROXTON
THO. DUNBAIN	GEORGE JOHNSON
FRAN: CRANE	THOMAS WALTON
RICHD. OULTON	EDWD. EVANS
JOSEPH PARKER."	

MR. JONATHAN HARVEY, whose Library was thus made a bone of contention, was an earnest Nonconformist Preacher, the head of a rich congregation in Bridge-street, a charge he was compelled by ill-health to abandon some few years before his death. On or a little prior to that event, his flock united with that of Mr. MATTHEW HENRY, at his new chapel in Trinity-street, and an additional Gallery was erected there, purposely for their accommodation. Mr. Harvey's father, the Rev. John Harvey, was for about one year Rector of Wallasey, in this county, but was ejected thence for

non-compliance with the Act of Nonconformity. As for the two offending ironmongers, John Yeoman and James Whitfield, the former was an old tradesman, sworn a Freeman of Chester in 1686; and the latter was admitted to the like ancient franchise in 1703.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[258] BISHOP STRATFORD'S FUNERAL.

The following MS. scrap occurs among some papers of the late Dean Cotton, of Bangor:—

"We have here an account of a funeral procession for a Bishop of Chester (no doubt Dr. STRATFORD) who died of an apoplexy in London, and was brought down to be interr'd in the Cathedral at CHESTER, in February, 1706, Old Style.

"All the bells in Chester began to toll at six of the clock in the morning; and about one o'clock all the company went out to meet the Corps at the GLASS HOUSE, where the undertakers who attended deliver'd out the gloves, scarfs, hat-bands, &c. Between four and five o'clock they return'd into the town in the following order,—first, the Captain of the CITY MILITIA, followed by his company two and two, as slow as they could march; after them all the livery servants in ye same order; after them the gentlemen; all these had pepper collour'd gloves, seam'd with black. Then followed the BLUE BOYS on foot; after them the constables; next came ye sword and mace, covered with black, preceding THE MAYOR and the RECORDER with scarfs, hatbands, and Shammy gloves; then the Aldermen; after them eight of ye Bishop's servants on horseback in cloaks; then came forty or fifty clergymen, ye last of whom were ye six Prebends, who were ye bearers, with scarfs, hatbands, girdles, and gloves; and lastly, the DEAN and the CHANCELLOR. Then followed ye hearse decorated with black plumes and escutcheons, as were ye horses' heads, their backs cover'd with velvet; on each side ye horses were three porters in black gowns and caps, and black staves, to carry ye coffin. Then several mourning coaches and others, to ye number of between twenty and thirty. When they came to the EXCHANGE, ye Captain drew up his company of Militia. The coffin was then taken out of the hearse, and ye pall was supported by ye bearers to ye great door of ye BROAD AYLE. As soon as they enter'd ye church ye bearers walked before the corps, and the choir men and choirsters chanted ye services. The choir was hung with black and escutcheons from the throne to the pulpit. The grave was at one end of the Communion Table. The coffin covered with velvet, ye hinges and plates of Prince's mettle. The DEAN preached from *Daniel*, chap. verse 3, xii., "And they that be wise shall

shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Newton.

H.

[259] THOMAS MALLORY THE YOUNGER.

[See No. 244.]

Thomas Mallory the younger was the fourth son of the Dean, and was born about 1605. On the 15th October, 1624, he matriculated at New College, Oxford. By his brother, Richard Mallory, of Mobberley, Esq., and Wm. Forster, gent., he was in 1634-5 instituted to the Rectory of Northenden, Cheshire (25th February); and he was re-presented by the King, 6th August in the same year (Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, i. 292-3). The death of his wife Jane occurred at Northenden, 12th February, 1638-9, but he seems to have re-married again before 1643.

On the breaking out of the war, he, like his father, was compelled to forfake his benefice; and he fled to the adjoining garrison of Withenshaw, which had been fortified by Mr. Tatton, as described in some interesting and original papers in *East Cheshire*, pp. 314-5. In that stronghold Mallory met with another determined anti-Parliament parson, Mr. Pollitt, the curate of Chorlton-cum-Hardy; who had made himself obnoxious to his leading parishioners by attending horse races at Barlow Moor, and by other proceedings which they deemed unclerical. In giving evidence against this clergyman, John Barlow, one of the villagers, swore (10th February, 1647-8) that he had heard Mr. Pollitt confess to Mr. Hyde, of Denton, that he went to Withenshaw, then a garrison, to speak with Mr. Mallory, of Northenden, a malignant parson. Withenshaw House was finally attacked and taken (25th February, 1643-4) by Col. Robert Duckensfield, and Mallory was one of those whose names were taken down as being then present. His living was sequestered about Aug. 1644, and others served the cure. His possessions consisted of a parsonage house and a little glebe land thereto. His wife claimed and received her fifths out of the Rectory. Where the family resorted to does not appear. But in 1648, 6th July, Henry Newcome, afterwards the well-known minister of Manchester, was married "at Mr. Mallory's house at Daveneshaw—(qy. Davenham)—to Mistress Elizabeth Manwareinge"—(*Autob.* pp. 295, and 10). Mallory in some way obtained a title in the year 1651 to the Rectory of Eccleston, in Leyland Hundred, Lancashire—(Baines, new ed. ii., 148)—an appointment which occurred in the very year in which EDWARD GEE, the energetic Presbyterian, placed there by the local classis, was imprisoned. Gee, however, returned from his incarceration; and he dated his prison-book, *A Treatise of Prayer*, Lond., 8vo., from Eccleston, which indeed he continued to occupy. The circumstances attending Mallory's presentation to this rectory are not on record, but his right to it at the Restoration does not seem to have been called in question.

The next important event in Mallory's life was his engaging with Sir George Booth in the Cheshire Rising. On the passing of the Act in 1661, Mallory entered into possession both of Northenden and Eccleston, for both livings had become vacant by the deaths of those who had been appointed during the interregnum. Mr. Earwaker, (i. 295), states that Mallory was reinstated at Northenden in the year 1662; but no authority is cited for that date, which seems about a year too late. Alluding to the preceding rector, Henry Dunster, who was buried there 20th March, 1661-2 Calamy says that Mr. Melbery (*i.e.*, Mallory) was remarkably grateful to him; but it is difficult to explain exactly what Calamy meant by this remark. In some way Mallory became possessed likewise of the advowson of this rectory; for in the Chester Chapter Books there is an entry, 31st October, 1662, that the advowson of Northenden for one turn only was to be altered, on Dr. Mallory's behalf, from his own name to those of Sir Jeffrie Shakerly, Sir John Arderne, and Edward Hyde, Esq. The next vacancy, which did not arise through Mallory's death, occurred about five years later, when John Cooke was instituted Rector, 25th February, 1667-8, on the presentation of Edward Hyde, of Hyde, Esq.—(Earwaker, i., 295.)

(To be continued.)

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Queries.

[260] NANTWICH SCHOOL HOUSE.

Is the old School house in Nantwich Church yard lost to memory, as well as to sight? for, according to its inscription,

"Richard Dale freemason
was the Master Carpenter
in making this Buylidings
Anno Domini 1611

JOHN YEARDLEY."

It was a picturesque old Timber Building with a narrow projecting gable in front, supported on pillars, with two rows of four shields each, in panels.

B. LL. V.

[261] GENERAL CHARLES LEE.

This eminent soldier was born at Darnhall, in this county, and having served with some distinction on the side of the Americans in the War of Independence, he fell under the displeasure of WASHINGTON, who managed to have him tried by Court Martial. On the 12th of August, 1778, he was found "guilty of the several charges brought against him, and sentenced to be suspended from any commission in the Armies of the United States of North America for a term of twelve months." In one of his published letters he says

"Young Colonel HENRY LEE has signalized himself extremely in this accursed contest, the ruinous consequences of which to the whole Empire I predicted to Lord Piercy, and to my friend General Burgoyne." Can any of your readers help me to an account of this HENRY LEE?

E. G. S.

Glan Aber, Chester.

Replies.

[262] SALT PANS FOUND AT NORTHWICH.

[Nos. 50, 94.—May 22, June 12.]

The following extract from MR. BEAMONT'S recently published *Catalogue of the Antiquities in the Warrington Museum*, will account for one, and part of a second, of the Pans which were found.

"ANCIENT LEAD SALT PAN, and Fragment of another—with others lying side by side, found at Northwich, 8 or 9 feet below the surface. Each pan measured 3 feet 6 inches long, by 2 feet 6 inches wide, and 6 inches deep. Fire had been used under them, and pieces of charred wood adhered to the ends. They rested on oak sills, and one of them had marks of this kind cut upon it, IIICCCIII. From these Pans we see what is meant by "lead walling in Holland's *Agricultural Survey of Cheshire*, 51 *in notes*, and Lowthorp's *Abridgt. Philosophical Trans.* II, 814."

The whole Pan weighs 2 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.: the fragment bears the inscription given above, and other marks of an ornamental character.

C. M.

Warrington Museum.

[263] CREWE RAILWAY STATION.

[No. 139.—July 10.]

In answer to G. T., the land on which this now stands was, immediately prior to the occupation by the Railway Company, mere open fields. I went over it to compare a Map for the COMPANY previous to obtaining their Act.

As to the "cultivation," I have a distinct recollection of its being land the poorest of the poor—a "Pewit to an acre" would have been about sufficient stock.

Copies of the original Railway Plans having been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace, and also in the Parish Chest, G. T. can easily ascertain the particular fields.

B. LL. V.

[264] A CHESTER HOAX IN 1815.

[No. 198.—August 7.]

The following is an extract from the *Chester Chronicle* of September 1st, 1815, relative to this so called "Chester Hoax," by which A. R. will see that there are no handbills extant, owing to the event never having occurred in the city:—

"HOAX AT CHESTER!"

[“This may rather be classed as a *Limerick* than a *Chester Hoax*! We are surprised that Mr. Flint, the editor of the *Limerick* paper from which we have copied the following, would allow any quizzing *spark* to impose upon him with so improbable a story. He gives it, however, as an actual fact, and details it with much confidence!—That the cats might be an acquisition to his Imperial Majesty in his solitude, we are not prepared to deny; but we think his agent might have fixed upon a much more appropriate place than Chester for a depôt. We are told that “fictions to please should wear the face of truth.” Mr. Flint appears to be totally callous to the necessity of this qualification. The story nevertheless may please some of our readers, and serve to show how easily our friends of the sister kingdom are *hoaxed*. On these considerations we give it to the public.”]

“A correspondent has stated to us the following account of a curious trick lately played off at CHESTER:—A short time ago a respectable looking man caused a number of handbills to be distributed through Chester, in which he informed the public that a great number of genteel families had embarked at Plymouth, and would certainly proceed with the British regiment to St. Helena. He added further that, the island being dreadfully infested with rats, his Majesty's Ministers had determined that it should be forthwith effectually cleared of those noxious animals. To facilitate this important purpose he had been deputed to purchase as many cats and thriving kittens as could possibly be procured for money in that short space of time; and therefore he publicly offered in his handbills 16s. for every athletic, full-grown tom cat, 10s. for every adult female puss, and half-a-crown for every thriving vigorous kitten that could swill milk, pursue a ball of thread, or fasten its young fangs in a dying mouse. On the evening of the third day after this advertisement had been distributed, the people of Chester were astonished with an irruption of a multitude of old women, boys, and girls into their streets, every one of whom carried on their shoulders a bag or sack, which appeared pregnant with some restless animal that seemed labouring into birth. Every road—every lane was thronged with this comical procession—and the wondering spectators of the scene were involuntarily compelled to remember the old riddle about St. Ives—

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with fifty wives,
Every wife had fifty sacks,
Every sack had fifty cats,
Every cat had fifty kittens,
Kittens, sacks, cats, and wives,
How many were going to St. Ives?

Before nightfall a congregation of nearly 3000 cats were collected in Chester. The happy bearers of these sweet-voiced creatures proceeded (as directed by the advertiser) to one street with their delicate

burdens. Here they became closely wedged together. A vocal concert soon ensued—the boys and girls screamed—the cats squaled—the boys and girls shrieked treble, and the dogs of the street howled bass; so that it soon became difficult for the nicest ear to ascertain whether the canine—the feline—or the human tongue predominated. Some of the cat-bearing ladies, whose dispositions were not of the most placid nature, finding themselves annoyed by the pressure of their neighbours, soon cast down their burdens and began to box. A battle royal ensued. The cats sounded the war whoop with might and main. Meanwhile, the boys of the town, who seemed mightily to relish the sport, were actively employed in opening the mouths of the deserted sacks, and liberating the cats from their forlorn situation. The enraged animals bounded immediately on the shoulders and heads of the combatants, and ran spitting, squalling, and clawing along the undulating sea of skulls towards the walls of the houses of the good people of Chester. The citizens, attracted by the noise, had opened the windows to gaze at the fun. Into these windows the cats instantly sprang, taking possession of the rooms by a kind of storm or escalade. The cats, in their sudden assaults on the drawing rooms and other apartments of the Chesterites, rushed, with the rapidity of lightning, up the pillars and then across the ballustrades (*sic*) and galleries, for which the town is so famous, and so slap dash through the windows into the apartments. Never since the days of the celebrated Hugh Lupus were the drawing rooms of Chester filled with such a crowd of unwelcome guests. Now were heard the crashes of broken china—the howlings of affrighted lap dogs—the cries of distressed damsels, who wept their torn faces and dishevelled charms—and the groans of fat old citizens, rushing and tumbling forwards towards the balconies, with heads divested of their wigs—bald, bare, and bleeding. All Chester was soon in arms, and dire were the deeds of vengeance executed on the feline race! It is needless to recite the various combats that took place between the cats and the men. Suffice it, that our correspondent counted five hundred dead bodies floating the next day on the river Dee, where they had been ignominiously thrown by the two-legged victors. The rest of the invading host, having evacuated the town, dispersed in utter confusion, carrying with them, however, their arms from the field of battle.”

Ledsham.

B. M.

[265] ANCIENT INSCRIPTION AT HANDLEY.

[No. 221.—Aug. 21.

I copy the following notice from “*Hanshall's History of Cheshire*,” p. 320, published 1817.

The Church is dedicated to All Saints, and was given by Alan de Boydell to the Monastery of St. Werburgh. After the Dissolution, the Advowson of the Rectory was confirmed to the Dean and Chapter of Chester. The Church has a nave and chancel, but no side aisles;

and a strong tower, on the south side of which is inscribed:—

"Hoc ca'panile f'o'm e' a' d'ni M.CCCC.XII^o
t'p'e R'e'i Raulineo', Rectoris, ac pro o'ibus
b'n'factoribus ejusdem orate."

Steam Mill Street.

J. H.

[The contracted Latin inscription here supplied may be roughly translated as follows:—"This tower was erected in the year of our Lord 1512, in the time of Richard Rawlinson, Rector. Pray ye now for the benefactors thereof!"

EDITOR.]

SEPTEMBER 25, 1878.

Original Documents.

[266] SUNDAY TRADING AT CHESTER PUT DOWN.

In Queen Elizabeth's days the practice of SUNDAY TRADING (winked at perhaps in previous reigns, when a particular article of food subject to rapid decay—mackerel for example—chanced to arrive in quantity after midnight on Saturday) degenerated into a nuisance and scandal when it extended itself to other and less hazardous trades. But every now and again, as we find by the CHESTER CORPORATION RECORDS, if the Mayor for the time being chanced to be scrupulous beyond his fellows, a wholesale Order would go forth for the stay of the evil alluded to. It went hard then, we may be sure, with the irreligious butchers, the fruiterers and hucksters, who were pounced upon and fined without mercy, if they dared to disobey the chief magistrate's injunctions.

HENRY HARDWARE, of Chester, and of Peele Hall, near Tarvin, who was Mayor in 1599, when the annexed Order was issued, was an ardent Puritan, as had his father, twice Mayor, also been before him. The son was even more so than the sire, as the pages of local history could easily be cited to prove. But we will satisfy ourselves for the present with just one quotation from the Corporation Books, as follows:—

"Att an Assemblie houlden in the Commen hall of pleas w'thin the Citie of Chester, before Henry Hardware, Esquier, maior of the same Citie, the ixth day of November, Anno R' E'ne Elizabeth, &c., Quadragessimo primo.

NO P'SON OR P'ONS OF WHAT TRADE SOEVER TO OPEN THEIR SHOPPES ON THE SABOTH DAY.

"Alsoe at this Assemblie Mr. Maior enformeth the same of great abuses suffered w'thin the said Citie in p'mittinge Butchers, Hucksters, and other trades men to keepe open their shopps, and to vtter and sell publickly in their shopps and vppon their

stalles, fleshe, fruite, and other things upon the Saboth daie to the prophanooc'on of the same: for reformat'o'n whereof, it is by this whole Assembly ordered and fully agreed vppon that noe manner of p'son or p'sons, of what trade or occupac'o'n soeu' he or they be, at any tyme or tymes hereafter shall keepe open their shopps, or in public mann' shall sell or put forth to shew, or offer to be sould, vppo' any Saboth day, any wares or merchandizes of any kinde or sort whatsoeuer; nor that any butcher, Huckster, or any other person or persons shall at any time hereafter vppon the Saboth day keepe open their shopps or stalles, nor publickly sell or offer to be sould any fleshe, fruite, or any other kinde of victualls or things whatsoeuer."

ORDERS OF ASSEMBLY, such as that just quoted, were in those early days far more a reflex of the MAYOR's own personal mind or whim, than are similar edicts now. The magisterial, but especially the Chief Magistrate's, position rode almost paramount in the Council Chamber during his year of office; and thus we not unfrequently find an Order of Assembly passed by the Mayor's personal influence in one year, which his successor as completely, and oft-times ignominiously, sets aside in the next. The adage that every dog has his day (and often only his day) was essentially true of those sturdy old Mayors of the 16th century!

EDITOR.

Notes.

[267] THE BEAR, AND KNUTSFORD CHAPEL.

THOMAS PAGET, who in 1641 edited a work by JOHN PAGET, of Amsterdam, now in my hands, entitled *A Defence of Church-Government, Exercised in Presbyteriall, Classicall, and Synodall Assemblies*, London, 4to., makes the following singular narration in dispraise of the episcopal government of Bishop BRIDGEMAN, soon after his accession to the See of Chester:—

"At KNUTSFORD, a market towne in Cheshire, a Gentleman of the Country [i.e., county], being vainly disposed, did cause a Beare passing through the street to be led into the Chappell: which the Bishop hearing of suspended the Chappell from having any divine service or sermons for a long time, as being profaned by the beare."—Page **2 of the "Humble Advertisement to the high Court of Parliament."

Which of the two chapels of Knutsford is here meant does not appear.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[268] CHESHIRE DIALECT.

[CHESHIRE SHEAF, No. 69, June 6.]

Referring to the word "Stele," this is (as in the *Vision of Piers Ploughman*) commonly now used to designate a long handle—as to a rake or pikel. "Hame"

denotes a short handle, as to an axe or hammer; *e.g.*, said, when helping to cleave a log, "Not a-that'ns—put the head of the axe hame jed down." Hame being, I take it, from haulm, the stalk, as bean haulm.

"Spurn" is another common Cheshire word for the thick ends of the main roots of a tree at the base—from spur. Watching a man falling a tree, and observing it was a tough one, he said, "Ye seen, yome in the spurns, and the chips wonna bout (bolt)."

"Scratlle," I have heard used to designate a poor woman making "a sort of scratlle for a living."

Any very crooked job or thing is "like a fiddler's elbow."
B. LL. V.

Queries.

OLD CHESTER.

[269]

An old author, who took a pride in describing *Caer-Leon*, in South Wales, as the "City of Legions," proceedeth thus:—

Another City of Legions we find also
In the west part of England, by the water of Dee,
Called *Caer-Leon* of Brittaines long ago,
After named CHESTER, by great authority.
Julius, the Emperor, sent to this said city,
A legion of knights to subdue Ireland;
Likewise did *Claudius* as we understand.

This quotation would imply that long before Chester was called by that name it had been a place of consequence under the Britons, and known to them as *Caerlleon*—

The founder of this city, as saith *Polychronicon*,
Was *Leon Gaur*, a mighty strong gyant,
Which builded caves and dungeons many a one,
No goodly building, ne proper, ne pleasant.

A sort of underground place, where the inhabitants could hide themselves in "caves," and where, when in the order of good fortune they took prisoners, they could shut them up in "dungeons."

But King *Leir*, a Britain fine and valiant,
Was founder of *Chester* by pleasant building,
And was named *Guer Leir* by the King.

Why *Guer Leir*? Are we to understand that the old city was first known to the Britons as *Caerlleon*,—then to a later generation of the same race as *Guer Leir*,—and eventually that it was "named *Chester* by great authority?"

"This *City of Legions*, so called by Romans, now is nominate, in Latine, of his property, *Cestria quasi Castra*, of honour and pleasure," and—

Proved by building, of old antiquity,
In cellars, and low vaults, and halls reality;
Like a comely Castle, mighty strong, and sure,
Each houselike a Castle, sometimes of great pleasure.

All of which averments though true probably enough in fact, and plain to antiquaries, do require some clear exposition before we moderns and simples can thoroughly understand them, so as to comprehend the full force of the old story, which gives the city to Britons and Romans thus. In "The Vale Royal of England" we read of the variable changes which had distinguished its history, but "by God's goodness and mercy (it) hath again recovered all losses and impeachments:" so that both under British and Roman rule, as well as under that of Saxon, Dane, and Norman, it flourished and maintained the proud distinction which has given to it historic fame.

You have in your *SHEAF* provided a popular medium for the elucidation of all dark passages in Cestrian history; and if I may make so bold as to ask some of your learned correspondents to tell me, in a short and plain way, with proper references to authorities, how we are to read this history correctly, I opine that very many of your readers will concur with me in thanking beforehand any good friend who will do us that public service. The whole very ancient part of the tale probably might be covered in a period anterior to the year of our Lord 73, when,—

"King *Marius* a Brittain, reigning in prosperity
In the west part of this noble region,
Amplified and walled strongly *Chester* City,
And mightily fortified the said Foundation;"

and thence to Norman times, the task becomes easy, though wanting perhaps in exactitude as to dates and citations, which add so much to the value of all that is conveyed to us in print. Adopting the lines laid down by *Bradshaw*, I should like to know when each epoch commenced in point of time, and how long it lasted; and, if possible, what are the marks still left to us by which we can read in stones the British, Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman proofs of the antiquity and growth of Chester.
A. F. G.

[270] MURTHEE OF JOHN BRUIN.

In Mr. J. Payne Collier's *Registers of the Stationers' Company*, London, Vol. I., p. 7; ii., pp. vii—ix. (Shakespeare Society, 1848-9) a MS. volume in the Editor's possession is referred to as containing, amongst some 83 very early Poems, one entitled the "MURTHEE OF JOHN BRUIN." Can any of your correspondents give further particulars of this Poem, especially as to whether it has any local interest?
G. T.

[271] ODAED'S SWORD.

Dining recently with a dear old friend, a worthy cadet of the house of Dutton, the conversation turned upon the past days of the family, the heads of which were landed proprietors of importance as far back as the Conquest. He mentioned a circumstance of which I was not previously aware, viz.: that the *SWORD* of his great ancestor *ODAED* was still in existence somewhere in the neighbourhood, but he was unable to tell

me where. Will some one better informed be good enough to supply the information, and give some slight description of this very ancient weapon?

PURSUIVANT.

[272] NANTWICH CHURCH.

At the time of the Restoration of the CHURCH, there were existing several COFFINS, cut out of solid oak trees, black with age; also quantities of encaustic and other old flooring tiles, which had been dug up, as well as fragments of sculpture. Some of the Tiles were identical in pattern with Tiles found in Chester, and which are figured in the Chester Archaeological Society's *Journal*.

In 1856 there was existing in one of the windows of the S. Aisle a bit of stained glass with the date "A.D. 1338," or perhaps 1538, on a scroll.

Can any local friend contribute to THE SHEAF some account of these things? B. LL. V.

Replies.

[273] BASINGWICK ABBEY.
[No. 23.—May 8.]

As no Reply has yet been offered to this, one of the earliest of THE SHEAF Queries, I tender a few remarks more by way of suggestion than as positive information. In the volume of *Ecclerastical Documents*, edited for the Camden Society in 1840, by the late Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A., four documents are printed, shewing the relation of certain abbeys of the Cistercian Order to each other in the reign of Henry II. (A.D. 1157). It is there declared that whereas Buildwas Abbey, in Salop, was suffragan only to the parent house of Cistercium; so, on the other hand, the two widely-separated Abbeys of BASINGWICK in Flintshire, and of St. Mary's at DUBLIN, were to be regarded as subordinate to BUILDWAS. It may very likely be that while dealing with the property of this Irish Abbey at the Reformation, the Commissioners ascertained that its allied house at BASINGWICK possessed the lead the Castle of Dublin so urgently required, and so prayed the authorities of the Crown to move and appropriate it to the use of that Castle Royal in the sister isle.

G. T.

[274] KING HAROLD AT CHESTER.
[No. 114.—June 26.]

Though Giraldus was the first authority, so far as we can in these later times prove, for the romantic story about HAROLD's escape alive from the field of Hastings, and his subsequent hermit-life at Chester; it is not improbable that some such tradition did really obtain credence soon after the battle. The body found upon

the field, and believed to be his by his distracted wife and a few followers, was no doubt hastily buried: and the impression would then naturally gain ground that his identity had not only not been proved, but that their idolized monarch had effected his escape when the fortune of the day turned finally against him.

CHESTER was at a becoming distance from the field of action, and was moreover known to be a place of strength and security, out of the ordinary travelling track of that day. Hither the popular belief saw the wounded body of their leader secretly conveyed; and the chiefs of his routed army would be well inclined, for state and dynastic reasons, to favour the tradition. Once fairly started, the story would quickly gain consistency in the vulgar mind. This, too, more especially as there was at the time, and so continued for centuries after, a celebrated HERMITAGE at Chester, on the rock to the southward of St. JOHN'S CHURCH, overlooking the River Dee. The hermit himself of that day, perhaps, would not be the one likely to discountenance the tradition, especially as it would add much of outward sanctity and respect to the life he had voluntarily espoused. That the account given by Giraldus was an article of settled faith in his day we may pretty safely conclude; but when afterwards subjected, like many similar traditions, to the light of intelligent criticism, it was found to contain a thousand grains of fiction for one of historic fact. That HAROLD's royal body lies where accredited history has almost unanimously placed it, there is probably no well-read man of the present day hardy enough to hazard a doubt.

T. HUGHES.

[275] EXECUTIONS IN CHESTER.
[No. 123.—July 3.]

This is a kind of addendum to A. R.'s remarks upon the Execution in 1771.—The *Chester Chronicle*, for October 7th, 1791, states:

"To-morrow is the appointed day for the execution of Joseph Allen, alias Booth, alias Old Joe; David Aston, alias Davies; and William Knock, alias Big Joe, alias Walton, for burglary. A new temporary gallows is made for the melancholy occasion, which is intended to be placed opposite the old tree in Boughton, near this city."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[276] THE BERRINGTONS OF ASHLEY.
[Nos. 160, 224.—July 24, August 21.]

THE EDITOR of ORMEROD's *History of Cheshire* presents his compliments to the Editor of the *Cheshire Sheaf*, and having had his attention called to a note under this heading in the *Chester Courant*, bearing the signature of Mr. J. P. EARWAKER, he begs to say that it is quite true that the additions by Sir Peter Leycester, to which the note in question refers, had escaped the memory of the Editor of Ormerod.

The Editor of Ormerod would, however, have esteemed it more courteous of Mr. J. P. Earwaker, had

that gentleman addressed to him a private note. In the labour attending so great a work as Mr. Ormerod's *History*, Mr. J. P. Earwaker should know that it is difficult to avoid occasional slips of the trifling kind referred to; and the Editor of *Ormerod* is always obliged for any communications or corrections with which he may be favoured by competent hands.

The Editor of *Ormerod* has carefully abstained from any criticism of recent publications relating to Cheshire; but looking at the treatment some of them have received at the hands of others, Mr. J. P. Earwaker's comments on this occasion might have been spared.

Lincoln's Inn, London.

Sept. 2nd.

[277] WYBUNBURY CHURCH TOWER.

[No. 232.—Aug. 28.]

In reply to the query by "A FREEMASON" relative to WYBUNBURY CHURCH TOWER, I recollect distinctly hearing the Rev. James Hayes, who was the curate in charge at the time, describe, in conversation with my father, the means that were adopted so successfully for straightening the tower, which leaned five feet out of the perpendicular, and was a cause of great excitement in the neighbourhood.

MR. TRUBSHAW, from Eccleshall, or Stafford, was the architect who originated the plan, and carried it out with such good results. He employed a screw or bore, made after his own design; with which he bored under the foundation of the higher side, and by small quantities withdrew the clay, some of which was afterwards made into pottery. The tower gradually sank on this side until it was perfectly straight, when it was firmly bolted together, and has ever since remained in the proper position. I believe the date was 1833.

Nantwich.

S. A. B.

[278] RUSHBEARING.

[No. 246.—Sept. 4.]

In answer to the query of your correspondent "W. M. B., of Saighton," in your impression of this week, I wish to state my opinion that the phrase RUSHBEARING represents the true derivation of the popular expression for the custom of our neighbouring parishes.

The late Colonel Egerton Leigh, in his very interesting *Glossary of Cheshire Words*, fully bears out my derivation of the phrase in question; and also states that the practice is indigenous at LYMM.

The Rushes, I am informed, are in some places, or used to be, borne in procession to the church and churchyard. In addition to the parishes mentioned by your correspondent, the use is in full force at SHOCKLACH, on this side the Dee, opposite Inceod, — a quiet, strange little parish, the church of which is well worth a visit to an archaeologist. The date there depends upon what was I suppose the Dedication

Festival at Farndon. Some slight attempt at intramural decoration was made at Shocklach this year on the occasion.

Mr. Lutener, of HARTHILL, if my memory is correct, has mentioned to me the Rushbearing there, not only on to the graves, but also within the church, as a floor. It would be very interesting to discover traces of the practice in any other group of parishes. The origin of the custom I suppose to be a desire to honour the "Holy Dead" and Holy Places. The length of its existence I should not be surprised to find greater than that of Christianity.

W. TREVOR KENYON,
Rector of Malpas (Higher Mediety).

In days gone by, but which I still well remember, Rushes were strewn at the annual RUSHBEARING in the once dirty and dismal, but now restored and very charming, old church at HOLT, in the adjoining county of Denbigh. They were allowed to remain, as memory equally well reminds me, on the aisles and in the pews throughout the year, as some slight substitute for the flooring which, in other and similar structures common, was there conspicuous by its absence.

WREXHAM Church was in my childhood, and perhaps may be still, famous for its annual RUSHBEARING, in the evening orgies of which the celebrated ale of the town played a no inconsiderable part.

Lavister.

SENEX.

The custom is observed in my own parish, and in a few neighbouring ones; also, as I have been told, in some places in Westmereland. It consists, here, of a floral decoration of the interior of the church, in which RUSHES are conspicuous, and of a similar adornment of the graves in the churchyard.

I can only suppose that the day is observed in commemoration of the season of the year when, in old times, it was customary to renew the rushes with which not only the floors of churches, but those of domestic buildings were strewn. I must confess, however, that I am at a loss to connect this usage with the floral decoration either of the building or the graves. It is likely that the RUSH-BEARING presented an opportunity for a general cleaning and brightening up of the edifice; and then, it may well be, that advantage was taken of the season (the first Sunday after Midsummer Day, old style), a season rich beyond all others with the bloom of common flowers, to add effect to the operation by introducing flowers with the rushes.

I have searched our old parish account book and find occasional notices, about 100 years ago, of a charge for "cleaning the church at the Rushbearing," or, as it is called in one instance, the "Rushburying." This last term seems, at first sight, to point to the custom of placing rushes on the graves. I am, however, very doubtful of the reference, as the spelling of the good man who kept the accounts is, to say the least of it,

peculiar; quite sufficiently so to lead me to believe that he merely confounded the two words. Probably he discharged the office of sexton, and his avocation might unduly lead his thoughts to the subject of a "burying."

It seems to me quite erroneous to connect the Rush-bearing with the observance of WAKES, as I have seen under this head in an Encyclopædia. Our wakes are observed at a very different season—the beginning of November—the Church being dedicated to All Saints. At this time of year the rushes would be dead and unfit for use.

W. LUTKNER.

Vicar of Harthill.

OCTOBER 2, 1878.

Original Documents.

[279] THE PLAGUE AT CHESTER, 1647.

Of this particular visitation of sickness, out of the many that at various periods have devastated Chester, our local annals give us but a slight description. In Broster's *History of the Siege of Chester*, even the year of its occurrence is mis-stated; although he tells us that more than two thousand of the citizens died of the dread distemper, and that business so completely ceased that grass grew in the principal streets.

Midsummer, 1648, is the date given by Broster; but when we find, as we presently shall, that it occurred a year previously, we shall see at once that less than five months had elapsed since the city emerged from the horrors of civil war, and from a most violent and protracted siege. This then was the legacy left to old Chester on the close of that gallant and loyal struggle. Pestilence carried off by thousands those whom the sword had failed to reach.

The PLAGUE prevailed beyond the citizens' power to cope with it; and Parliament was constrained to put forth its hand to help. Accordingly an Ordinance was passed, in the following terms:—

"Whereas Chester is grievously visited with the pestilence, very few families being clear; by reason whereof almost all persons of ability have left the said city, there remaining for the most part only the poor, who are altogether deprived of trading, and if not presently relieved are likely to perish for want, and endanger the infecting the adjacent counties. And whereas the County of Chester is exceedingly impoverished by the late war; 'tis ordered that the ministers of London and Westminster, those in the counties of Chester, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Southampton, Middlesex, Essex, Hereford, Cambridge, Suffolk, and Norfolk, do, on the next Lord's Day after the receipt of this ordinance, earnestly move their people to contribute for the relief of the said distressed inhabitants."

These writs or briefs went forth to the churches in the several counties named, but the aggregate money results, if recorded, have never met our eye. We are indebted, however, to the research and great kindness of Mr. CHARLES BRIDGER, of South Kensington, for three documents from the Public Records, throwing some curious light upon this sad epoch in Chester history. The first document runs as follows:—

Letter from Thomas Atkin, Ex-Lord Mayor of London, to the Mayor and Corporation of Norwich, urging subscriptions for the relief of the inhabitants of Chester.

Laus Deo. London, the 19th Aug., 1647.

"Right worship'll, my due respect remembered vnto yow and all your Bretheren. S'r, there was lately an ordinance passed both howses for a collection for the City of Chester and some places there nere vnto, being most greivously visited with the plauge (sic), after so long sufferings by the Soldery in those partes: the collection is to be made in many countieys, but Norwich and some other places are not named, not doubting but such corporations are senceable of each others sufferings. I am requested by the Maior of Chester, being here in the howse, and by his fellow Burgesse, to mone yow on their behalfe that yow would be pleased, either in your Churches or your Wards, to further such their desiers: and so not doubting of your assistance, in so good and charitable a worke, I take leave and rest

your worshipp' to command

THO. ATKIN.

To the Right Worship'll
John Utting, Esquire,
Maior of the City
of Norwich,
in Norwich."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[280]

BISHOP MAJENDIE.

In 1803, during the warlike excitement that then prevailed, CHESTER raised a large and efficient regiment of VOLUNTEERS, 1,300 strong, with Col. ROGER BARNSTON for its popular Commandant. The regiment used to be marched after each parade to the Colonel's house in Foregate-street, in the circular area in front of which they were formally disbanded; and where also the Colours, the present home of which we are unable to give, were presented to the Volunteers by the lady of their Colonel in March, 1804. One day, as they were returning up Watergate-street from their usual parade on the Roodeye, BISHOP MAJENDIE's carriage, with his lordship therein, drove down Northgate-street; turning abruptly at the Cross, so as to get between the band and the grenadier company of the

regiment; and so proceeded along Eastgate-street to the entrance to the Colonel's house. Just as the BISHOP's carriage got into this position, the band struck up a new tune, "Go to the devil and shake yourself," which they continued to play in a most vigorous style! The accidental humour thus occasioned immensely tickled the martial crowd, who cheered hilariously; to the no small chagrin of the Bishop, whose always imperturbable face looked more than ever rigid and impassive, as he found himself the unwelcome centre of this sudden popular mirth.

S. J. E.

[281] WHIPPING POST AT CHESTER.

Besides the Gallows, there was a WHIPPING POST in BOUGHTON, of which it is told that one evening in January, 1792, "some daring offenders, not having the fear of the magistracy before their eyes, *stript* the Whipping Post in Boughton of its furniture, and left it as *naked* as the backs of the culprits are likely to be in case of detection."

This Whipping Post, though, was not always used for that purpose, the place of punishment being changeable; for "at the Quarter Sessions for this city in June, 1778, Thomas Griffith was found guilty of maliciously breaking and throwing down a rail belonging to the Canal Company, and was ordered to be whipped from the Northgate to Cow-lane Bridge;" and on Saturday, April 16, 1791, a man, convicted at the Sessions for milking a cow and stealing the milk, was publicly whipped through the streets of the city.

Ledham.

R. M.

[282] MOW COP DIALECT.

(Fifth Paper.)

COLLOGUE. Collude.

"There's been ill-looking tramps enoo' about the place this last week, to carry off every ham an' every spoon we'n got; and they all *collogue* together, them tramps."

—George Eliot. *Adam Bede*.

SQUASHY. Soft, unripe, immature. It is sometimes said of young, unripe potatoes, "They eat'n *squashy*." A young and rather foolish person is also sometimes said to be but *squashy*.

"Them young gells are like th' unripe grain; they'll make good meal by-and-by, but they're *squashy* as yet."

—George Eliot. *Adam Bede*.

THREAP. To maintain or argue with pertinacity.

Some herds, well learn'd upo' the beuk,
Wad *threap* auld folk the thing misteuk.

—Burns.

My foes that bray so loud, and eke *threap* on so fast.

—Earl of Surrey's *Paraphrase on Psalm 55*.

*Pertinaciously accuse.

Sol gold is, and Luna silvèr we *threpe* (name).

—Chaucer, *C. T.*, The Canon's Yeoman's Tale.

WACK. To beat. A WACKIN'. A beating.

This carter *thwacketh* his horse upon the croup.

—Chaucer, *C. T.*, The Friar's Tale.

Straight grew

A dismal combat 'twixt them two:

Th' one arm'd with metal, th' other with wood,

This fit for bruise, and that for blood.

With many a stiff *thwack*, many a bang,

Hard crab-tree and old iron rang.

—Butler. *Hudibras*, P. i., c. ii.

DOFFY. Cowardly.

EDGEKREW. The fresh grass which grows after the hay harvest. Called also the *edditck*.

MANK. Trick. Prank.

PUGGIL. Rubbish. The word is usually used to denote something bad or inferior in the shape of food. Its nowt but *puggil*.

ROSADANDY. The Rhododendron.

TROWS. The steelyard.

WHISSUN. Whitsuntide.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[283] ERECTION OF PORTICO COLUMN, CHESTER CASTLE.

En suite to a Note in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF for August 14th, I venture to offer the following extract from the *Chester Chronicle*, for October 13th, 1797:—

"On Monday se'nnight, on the occasion of the erecting the first of the large columns of the portico of the NEW COUNTY HALL, building here, the "Loyal Chester Volunteers" assembled in the Abbey Square; and from thence marched with their colours, and accompanied by the band of music belonging to Lord Falmouth's regiment of Cornish Cavalry, to the Castle Yard. There a double guard of the Invalids was drawn out to prevent the large concourse of people, who were assembled to see the operation, from approaching too near the workmen; among whom were several of the acting magistrates, with a number of ladies and gentlemen, and also the young gentlemen of most of the schools in Chester. The column being previously brought to its situation, and all the machinery prepared, several coins of his present Majesty, in a small urn of Wedgwood's ware, enclosed in another of lead, were deposited in a cavity of the plinth, over which was placed a brass plate with a suitable inscription. This being done, the machinery immediately began work, the band playing "God save the King," and in about twenty minutes the column was raised; upon which the Volunteers fired three excellent volleys, the field pieces firing likewise three rounds, and the cannon upon the battery; together with three cheers from the whole of the corps, workmen, &c. These columns are of excellent stone, of a good colour, and were brought from Manley, about eight miles

from Chester, upon a carriage with six wheels built on purpose, drawn by sixteen horses, and when in the rough weighed from fifteen to sixteen tons each. They are three feet six inches in diameter, and, without the capitals, measure twenty-two feet six inches long, being considerably larger than those in front of the New College at Edinburgh. There will be twelve of these columns in the portico in two rows, of the Doric order, without bases, and twelve more likewise, of one stone something smaller, of the Ionic order, forming a colonnade round the semi-circular part of the inside of the hall. This building, when complete, it is presumed, will be one of the most magnificent edifices of the kind in the kingdom; and from the manner in which it is internally contrived for the convenience of the court and audience, it is hoped, too, it will both for hearing and seeing be one of the most useful. It has the same disposition within as, but larger than, the new hall nearly finished in the Gothic style at Lancaster by the same architect. A great portion of the hall within, and the portico, will be completely finished with hewn stone of the same quality as the column; and there is no doubt but that the execution of this massy piece of masonry will do equal credit to the undertakers as, from the models and present appearance, the GAOL and COUNTY HALL promise to do to the architect.

Ledsam.

R. M.

Queries.

[284] MARSELY PARK, WREXHAM.

This was the residence, in Charles the First's days, of a Denbighshire gentleman of good standing. I should be glad to learn its exact *locale*, and the title it bears in the present day. Was it a place of any historic importance?

Rhyl.

C. RIGBY.

[285] JOHN PHILLIPS, OF KINGSLEY.

Can any of your correspondents give me any information about "JOHN PHILLIPS, of Kingsley in Cheshire"? I have before me a privately printed tractate entitled:—"The Greek of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians explained. Wherein the Etymology of the most difficult Words is given: the Verbs noted in their various Moods and Tenses: The Metaphors carefully explained: and the whole illustrated with critical and explanatory Notes. By John Phillips, of Kingsley in Cheshire. London: Printed for the Author, MDCCLI." Preface & Historical Introduction 34 pp. Text and notes pp 64. The dedication is to the Reverend Obadiah Hughes, D.D., whom the author describes as "an Ornament in the Church of God, and the Friend of Mankind."

Southport.

PRECY M. HERFORD.

[286] THE OLDEST HOUSE IN ENGLAND.

Are your fellow-citizens and numerous readers aware that there is an Ancient House in Chester, bearing the extraordinary date of 1003? I could not have credited the fact, had I not on many occasions personally examined it. The most surprising thing is that the house, being of timber and plaster, should have survived the fires that have from time to time in that long interval played havoc in the city. I shall be glad to learn any history that may attach to the old House.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[287] FIGDALE.

There was in the fifteenth century a property in Cheshire bearing this name; but in a large map of the county now hanging on my study walls, I fail to see trace of any such locality. A witness on a trial in the Exchequer Court of Cheshire, in 1481, is made to state in his evidence that "he was Cheshire through and through, and had lived all his life within bowshot of FIGDALE." Where is one to look for this said FIGDALE?

L. L.

Replies.

[288] THE ARCH-REBEL FOUND.

[Nos. 62, 107.—May 29, June 19.]

I venture to think we can deprive of his *alias* the "T. W." who signs himself author of this book. He expressly states he was a "Citizen of Chester," which in those times meant, and meant only, a sworn Freeman of the old city, entitled to all its chartered and municipal privileges. Now, having compiled from our local records a full Roll of the Freemen from an early date, I am able to say positively that there were but two such Citizens at or near that date,—who were at the same time "Mercers," which the author confesses he "was brought up,"—and whose initials were "T. W." One of them, Thomas Whitehead, was admitted a Freeman in 1678, was still a young man in 1690, and seems to have taken no part whatever in public affairs, so may therefore, I think, be summarily dismissed. The other, THOMAS WILCOCK, who took up his Freedom as a Mercer in 1654, was a man of prominent standing in Chester for many years. He was Sheriff of the city in 1659, when the royalists and churchmen were again feeling their way to the front, and he served the office of Mayor in 1670. He was still an Alderman in 1687, and on visiting terms with Bishop Cartwright; in whose published *Diary* he is several times mentioned as dining and supping with that enigmatical prelate. For instance, the Bishop records in 1686 that on

"Dec. 17. Several clergymen dined with me, who came to be ordained; and the Governor [of the

Castle, perhaps Sir Geoffrey Shakerley] and Alderman Wilcox, stayed to supper with me.

Dec. 27. Mr. Hanmore [Vicar of Weaverham] preached and dined with me; so did Mr. Attorney General, Alderman Wilcox, &c.

March 27, 1686-7. I was at the cathedral, and delivered the Sacrament. After dinner, Mr. Thane, Mr. Callis, Sir John Arderne, the Governor, and Alderman Wilcox, went to prayers with us in our private chapel.

Here we have him consorting with the high-church Bishop, with his favoured clergy and Jacobite friends; just the sort of man who, having retired from business, and being proud of his aristocratic associations, would be prone to shew his zeal for the church, at the expense of its opponent, the dissenting MATTHEW HENRY.

T. HUGHES.

[289] THE BEAR AND KNUTSFORD CHAPEL.

[No. 267.—September 25.]

The CHAPEL into which the Bear was led was in the Lower-street, where the GRAMMAR SCHOOL now stands; or rather to the front of it, for it stood considerably forward—a portion of it overhanging the street. The Chapel is thus described by Sir PETER LEYCESTER:—

There is also a Chappel of Ease situated in the Lower Town of Knutsford, with a school-house adjoining. Sir John Legh, of Booths, purchased from the King certain Lands in Nether Knutsford, Sudlow, and Over Knutsford, 3 Edw. VI., which in old time were given for the finding of a sufficient schoolmaster at Nether Knutsford, and also for finding of a Priest to say service in the said Chappel, which lands came to the King by the Statute of Dissolution of Chantries and Abbies.

Now the said Sir John Legh was bound in a recognizance of 200 marks to the King to pay out of those lands £25 6s. 8d. yearly to the maintenance of a schoolmaster, and to suffer the said Chapel to stand for Administration of the Communion. Dated 3 Edw. VI., and which moneys are yearly paid by his heirs at this day.

I do not think it is on record when this Chapel was taken down.

Knutsford.

J. S.—Y.

[290] MOCK BEGGAR HALL.

[Nos. 63, 79, 108.—May 29, June 5, 19.]

On referring to the large Map forming the frontispiece to Mortimer's *History of Wirral*, it will be seen that the tract of submerged land, situated between the deep channel and the main land, opposite Leasowe Castle, is lettered "Mockbeggar Wharf." It seems more probable the Hall gave its name to the "Wharf," than the reverse as suggested by Mortimer, in the quotation given in THE SHEAF, No. 108.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[291] BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN CHESTER.

[No. 88.—June 12.]

The paragraph abovenamed as to the number of houses in 1848, prompts me to copy from my note-book some records of the population of the city more than a century ago. They are as follows:—

"Nov., 1766.—The Births in Chester during the year were 367; deaths, 350; and marriages, 153.

"Nov., 1767.—In the city of Chester this year there were 351 christenings, 143 marriages, and 367 burials. Decrease in christenings, 18; increase in burials, 17; decrease in marriages, 10.

"Nov., 1768.—At Chester there were this year 380 christened, 422 buried, and 135 married. Increased in christenings, 29; increased in burials, 55; and decreased in marriages, 8.

These statistics I copied from the *Annual Register*, but why they should be recorded only on these years it is hard to say. In the year 1816 the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in a compendium of county history, gave the following statistics of Chester:—Houses, 3,457; inhabitants, 16,140.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[292] OFFERINGS AT FUNERALS.

[No. 101.—June 19.]

In reference to your remarks on this subject, I remember attending a funeral at St. ASAPH, some fifteen years ago, at which, after the service of the Church of England was concluded and the clergyman returned to the vestry, the sexton made a collection from the friends of the deceased, as they remained around the grave; after which all knelt down, and he slowly said the Lord's Prayer and the Gloria Patri; and then rising from his knees, began to fill up the grave, as the mourners and friends departed.

R. OWEN.

[293] LORD CHANCELLOR EGEETON.

[No. 164, 248.—July 24, Sept. 4.]

One of your correspondents expressed a desire for information respecting the EGEETON FAMILY. The following inscription was upon a stone in Aston Churchyard, Preston Brook, but is now almost effaced:—

Here lyeth the body of JOHN
EGERTON, one of the Sons of SER
RICHARD EGEETON of Ridley,
Knight, who died August 5,
1652. Welcome Death.

Aston.

R. M.

[294] A WELSH PEARL IN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

[Nos. 185, 240.—July 31st, August 28.]

A Correspondent writes on the PEARL FISHERY in the RIVER CONWAY:—I remember a story told by a relation of mine in Carnarvonshire, of a poor woman at CONWAY, who, by her diligent search for pearls, was

enabled to send her son to college: and he, being clever and prosperous, rose to be a canon of one of our cathedrals (which he has now resigned, at an advanced age). I believe the poor woman was known in her native town as "The Mother of Pearl."

Newton.

H.

OCTOBER 9, 1878.

Original Documents.

[295] A CHESTER SURGEON IN 1602.

The ASSEMBLY BOOK of the Corporation of Chester, Vol. I., records as follows, under date "the Twoe and Twentieth daie of October, 1602, Hughe Glaseour, Esquire, maior of the said Citie":—

"Nathaniel Woodward graunted to be free, payinge v li.

"Alsoe at the same Assembly NATHANIEL WOODWARD, a Chirurgeon, exhibited his petition to be admitted into the liberties and franchises of this citie; whose suite is graunted, in respecte he is thoughte to be a needefull member, havinge done many good Cures within this Citie, payinge for such his admittance fyve powndes."

It is probable that this direct admission to the Franchise was sought and obtained to prevent the necessity which would otherwise have arisen, that Mr. Woodward should become a member of the Barbers' and Barber Surgeons' Company, whose medical diploma was gradually falling into disrepute. Many excellent surgeons, however, then, and long after that date, preferred to practice under the wing of the ancient Company, which at one time locally monopolised the healing art.

T. HUGHES.

[296] AMIAS VAUGHAN, DEACON.

The following translation of a Document upon vellum in my possession, being the Letters of Holy Orders granted to one AMIAS VAUGHAN, will give the uninitiated an idea of the form in use in that behalf in the 17th century:—

"By the tenour of these Presents, We, GEORGE, by Divine permission BISHOP OF CHESTER, do make known, That on Sunday, viz., the 21st day of Dec., A.D. 1662, We the said Bishop there presiding, and celebrating the Holy Orders of the Most High God in the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary at CHESTER; and having had commended unto us our well-beloved in Christ, AMIAS VAUGHAN, for his laudable and virtuous life and manners, and for his sound doctrine, and knowledge of things sacred, proved moreover by our special examination in that behalf; and he having duly subscribed and sworn to obey the three Articles in the 36th Chapter of the Book of Canons, as set forth in 1603, Have

Admitted him to the Holy Order of a DEACON, and, according to the rites and customs of the Church of England in that regard, Have Ordained and raised him to the said Diaconate. In Testimony of which, We have hereto presently affixed our episcopal seal. Dated the 22nd day of December, in the year and place aforesaid, and of our consecration the first.

GEO: CESTRIENS.

JO'S DWIGHT, No'rius Pub'cus."

The Bishop who here admits Mr. AMIAS VAUGHAN to his sacred calling, is Dr. GEORGE HALL, himself the son of a Bishop, and an ardent royalist, to which latter circumstance he in a great measure owed his advancement to the see of Chester. Dying at Wigan, in August, 1668, he was buried in the chancel there, and a marble monument was erected over his grave. In the nave of Chester Cathedral also a similar memorial, remarkable for its inelegance of design, still exists in his honour.

G. T.

Notes.

[297] THOMAS MALLORY THE YOUNGER.

(Continued.)

[NOTE.—In the former paper, No. 259, owing to the miscarriage of MR. BAILEY'S proof-slip, some corrections and additions escaped attention, the chief of which are the following:—In 1st paragraph, last line, delete "again." In the 2nd paragraph, after the mention of Newcome's marriage, add "At Davenham the elder Mallory (note 244) had been Incumbent 43 years." In the third paragraph there should be added after the word *remark*, in the sentence about Calamy: "except it was that Mallory allowed Dunster to remain at Northenden as his curate. On April 17, 1662, the King gave Thomas Mallory, D.D., a dispensation, addressed to Archbp. Sheldon, to hold the Rectory of Eccleston, in the County Palatine of Lancaster, and the Rectory of Northen, alias Northerden in the said County (*sic*), being above 30 miles distance."—ED.]

In the year 1660, when there were many applications for the vacant ecclesiastical patronage in the King's gift, Mallory was active for his own further advancement. On the 6th July that year he drew up a petition for the rich Rectory of Houghton-on-the-side, *i.e.*, we presume, Houghton-le-spring, soon to be void by the removal of Dr. John Barwick to the Deanery of Durham, in which he was installed 1st Nov. Mallory's petition is as follows (*State Papers*, Dom., Chas. II., vol. vii., No. 58):—

"To the Kings most Excellent Ma'ty.

The humble petio'on of Tho: Mallory, Clerke.
Sheweth

"That y'r pet'r hath served y'r Royall father throughout ye Warre, and y'r royall selfe in ye late (though abortive) endeavors of ye Cheshire Gentlemen

hath ever bene conformable to ye Government and Discipline of ye Church of England; and whereas ye Rectory of Houghton on the side, in the Bishoprick of Duresme, is now voyd and in y'r Mat'yes Donac'on

"May it therefore please y'r gracious Ma'ty to grant y'r royall presenta'on vnto ye said Rectory unto ye pet'r.

And y'r pet'r shall ever pray, &c."

"At the Court at Whitewall ye 6th of July, 1660.

"His Ma'tie is gratically pleased to referre this Petition to Doctor Shelden Deane of the Chappell Doctor Earles Deane of Westminster and Doctor Morley Deane of Christ Church or any two of them, who are to informe themselves of the Pet'r's merit and due qualifacac'o' for the said preferment and report the same to his Ma'tie together with their opinions.

"Whereupon his Majesty will signify his further pleasure. EDW. NICHOLAS.

This Petitioner is capable
of ye favour he desires.

G. SHELTON.

GEOR. MORLEY."

(Not Endorsed.)

The dignitaries named in the King's direction were those who managed the ecclesiastical business at the Restoration.

To this paper is annexed a document humbly certifying "that ye Bearer hereof THO. MALLORY, Mr of Arts, Episcopally ordained, is of a holy life & Conversation, orthodoxe in Judgm't, conformable to the Antient Doctrine & Discipline of ye Church of England, & hath bene in these late revoluc'ons of times faithfull & loyal to his Sacred Ma'tye, & to his father of ever blessed Memory." This certificate is signed by Brune Byves, Deane of Chichester; George Hall, Archdeacon of Cornwall; Thom. Hyde, Can. D'ni. Epi. Sarum; and Geo. Wilde, LL.D. All were firm and active royalists. Byves was the author of *Mercurius Rusticus* and other writings in the interest of the King. Hall, son of the celebrated bishop of that name, had been beneficed in Cornwall during the troubles, was consecrated Bishop of Chester in 1662, and as such was, according to Martindale, p. 165, "brisk with his significavit." Hyde belonged to the family of the Chancellor Clarendon, and held other preferments in Salisbury Cathedral. Wilde became Bishop of Londonderry.

Some of these clergymen were amongst those who ministered to loyal congregations in London during the troubles; and an indication of Mallory's presence with them is obtained.

The petition for the Rectory of Houghton was not successful; for Dr. William Sanoroff was appointed 7th December, 1661, on the resignation of Barwick (Surtees' *Durham*, i. 157). Mallory next tried to obtain other preferment in the north, and in July, 1660, addressed the following to the King (*Ibid.*, vol. vij., No. 104):—

"To the Kings most Excellent Ma'ty.

The humble peti'on of Tho: Mallory, Clerke.
Sheweth

"That ye pet'r is & ever hath bene a faithfull sonne of ye Church of England, a Loyall & obedient Servante & Sub't of y'r royall father & y'r Ma'ty; that besides his personall sufferings for his Loyalty, which were eminent, he hath lost 5 Brethren of who' some dyed, others were slaine in his late Majestyes service.

"And whereas ye Prebend of Stillington belonging to the Cathedrall Church of Yorke is now voyd, & in yor Ma'tys Guift by vacancy of that see,

May it therefore please yor sacred Ma'ty to conferre ye said Prebend upon y'r Pet'r.

And ye pet'r shall as in duty bound pray."

"At the Court at Whitehall ye 13th of July, 1660.

"His Ma'tie referres this peti'on to Doctor Sheldon, Doctor"

This piece of patronage went, however, into the hands of Henry Bridgeman (brother of Sir Orlando), who afterwards succeeded to the Deanery of Chester and Bishopric of Man. JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford.

(To be continued.)

[298] THINGS I REMEMBER.—No. 4.

THE PEACE OF 1815.

Among my early recollections was the ILLUMINATION of the City in 1815, on which occasion its old streets became as resplendent as tallow candles and variegated lamps could make them. ABBEY SQUARE was lighted up by candles fixed to the top of every alternate rail, the central pillar being surmounted by a peculiar illuminated device not easily to be described. Over the DEANERY GATE appeared the words, formed in small coloured lamps, "Church and King." I remember that in NICHOLAS-STREET also, across the houses, was inscribed in immense letters of variegated lamps, "Britons rejoice; Europe is free!"; and over the CASTLE GATES the old inscription, now worn out, "Britain triumphant," was surrounded with laurels and brilliantly illuminated. Every house had its quantum of candles and appropriate mottoes. Over Parry's Coach Factory, in FOREGATE-STREET, was a most singular design, circular in shape, and which moved round a centre; in the exterior of the rim were figures of his Satanic Majesty holding a chain fastened to Napoleon's neck; so that when it revolved it appeared as if poor Napoleon were being dragged away by the devil! Another, somewhat similar, was a transparency in ABBEY-STREET, where the Emperor appeared sitting on a drum, biting his nails, and not seeming much to relish the devil, who stood before him, saying, "Come, I cannot wait." It happened rather oddly that, while I stood looking on, one of the candles accidentally fell against this design, and at once both devil and Buonaparte disappeared in a flame of fire!

POLYANTHUS.

[299] WARD FAMILY OF CONGLETON.

A lady of this family is said to have been executed for aiding in the escape of a Jesuit priest in the latter days of the 16th century. RICHARD WATSON was the name of this ecclesiastic, and he belonged to the Mission College of Rheims. He was confined in Bridewell, but having openly conformed, was for that time released. Repenting of his act, he returned to the Bridewell Church, and there loudly declared his adhesion to his former belief; whereupon he was again imprisoned in a room at the top of the Bridewell Prison.

His co-religionists determined to effect his release, and MRS. MARGARET WARD, a Congleton lady, it is said (by the Bishop of Tarrasona) undertook to aid in the perilous attempt. Orders had been issued to allow no one to visit Watson; but MRS. WARD managed to make a friend of the gaoler's wife, and occasionally obtained access to his cell,—not, however, until she had each time been rigidly searched, lest any letters, &c., should be secretly conveyed by her to the prisoner. Finding after repeated searches that no such attempt was made, she was allowed to pass to and fro without interruption, and at length contrived to smuggle a rope into the cell. With this rope Watson, at a day and hour agreed upon, slung himself down from the window; but finding the rope too short and himself too heavy to draw himself back, he had to drop from his position, and in doing so broke his leg. Two watermen, of the same religion, who were aiding in his escape, carried him off to a place of safety. Having unfortunately left the rope and his coat behind him where he fell, and his friends not daring to go back in search of them, the mode of his escape was at once discovered. MRS. WARD was thereupon cast into prison; and, acknowledging her act at the trial, was condemned to die, and did actually suffer at Tyburn on August 30, 1568. Watson got clear away, and died abroad.

This MARGARET WARD, was, it is presumed, mother of the JOHN WARD OF CAPESTHORNE, who sold that estate to his distant relative, John Ward, of Monksheath, in the reign of Elizabeth. H. S. A.

Queries.

[300] CONGLETON SACK AND CAKES.

What is there that specially marks these CONGLETON dainties over the cakes (to which I may add gingerbread), and SACK of other provincial towns? I have been reading about them to-day in an old number of the *Chester Courant*; and learned at the same time that the only true recipe for the famous old English Sack was a secret in the possession of a Congleton tradesman,

of a generation ago. Should this venerable brewer (if I may call him so) have in that interval been gathered to his fathers, did the dread secret just referred to die with him?

A. DAKYNE.

[301] BOUGHTON FORD.

I take it that this FORD was one of very great antiquity, older even than the Conquest. Is there any early notice of it on record, and when did it cease to be used as a place of common passage over the Dee? My first recollections of it are as a bathing resort for us Chester boys; and from what I remember then of the ups and downs of its uneven bed, the pleasure and convenience of the passage, at any time, for man and horse must have been in the highest degree equivocal.

L. L.

[302] THOMAS EGERTON, MEDALLIST.

In the *Chronicle of Queen Jane and Queen Mary*, 1553-4, preserved in Harleian MS. 194, and edited for the Camden Society by the late John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., is the following curious reference to a Cheshire man, or at all events a Cheshire name.

Under date September 10, 1554, this old diarist writes:—

"At this tyme wer the newe coynes, with the doble face [i.e., with the two profiles of the King and Queen] devised by Sir John Godsalue and THOMAS EGERTON."

Who was this last named Thomas Egerton, to whose joint inventive powers numismatists are indebted for that quaint silver coin of Philip and Mary, about which the familiar distich runs

"Cooing and billing

Like Philip and Mary on a shilling?"

If this EGERTON was really a Cheshire man, what other efforts of his in the coin way were there that ever saw the light?

G. T.

Replies.

[303] POLLUTION OF THE RIVER DEE.

[No. 64, 96.—May 29, June 12.]

A few words seem necessary to complete F. A. F.'s very interesting reply to this query. He seems not to be aware that ROBERT FROST, clerk, was a prominent Cheshire official long before his appointment on the RIVER DEE POLLUTION COMMISSION, in 1502. We glean from the Public Records that on February 20th, 1494-5, under the name and title of Robert Frost, clk., "elemosinarius noster," he was by Henry VII. nominated Chamberlain of the County Palatine, to hold the same during the Royal pleasure. On the 24th of

May, in the latter year, he was named one of the commissioners to inquire of what lands Thomas Danyel of Tabley died seized. And in 1499, having meanwhile resigned his office as Chamberlain, he was, with Sir Richard Pole, his successor, and Thomas Englefield, Vice-Justice of Chester, and JOHN CHALONER (his River Dee *confre*) carrying on a similar inquiry relative to the estates of Sir Thomas Cokesey, deceased, in Malpas, Shocklach, Nantwich, Peckforton, and elsewhere in Cheshire. In 1503, the year of the River Dee Commission, he was constituted a Justice of the Forests of Mara and Mondrem; after which year we find no further traces of him in this county.

In 1495, within a few months of his own arrival in Cheshire, we meet with his brother WALTER FROST, "armiger," as Receiver for the Forest of Maccolesfield; and in 1502 the King further appoints him to be Receiver for the Lordship of Maccolesfield, during the Royal pleasure. It seems pretty clear, therefore, from this, that both brothers enjoyed the favour of King Henry VII.; and F. A. F. has shown us that the like confidence was reposed in them by Henry VIII., his notable son and successor.

Of the remaining three Dee Commissioners, JOHN CHALONER was associated with Robert Frost in most of his recorded official acts; and on October 9th, 1505, was one of the commissioners commanded to ascertain what lands, being properly part of the Lordship of Halton, had been kept wrongfully out of the King's hands.

SIR RALPH BRETTON, Kt., of Malpas, had in November, 1498, a grant from Henry VII., of the next presentation to a mediety of the Rectory of Malpas; and in a deed of June 22, 1502, he is described by the King as "one of the knights of our body." He moreover held the office of Escheator of Cheshire, and was for 26 years Chamberlain of the County.

WILLIAM TATTON, the last-named of the four Commissioners enquired after by our correspondent J. C., was in 1484, Clerk, otherwise Baron, of the Exchequer of Cheshire, and was deputed for several years to hold the Lesser Swainmote in the Forests of Mara and Mondrem. In 1496, he had power given to him, in conjunction with Richard Werehall, Mayor of Chester, and others, to hold a Court of Histrienics in the city. In 1505, he was exercising the Office of Vice Chamberlain of the County Palatine.

EDITOR.

[804] CHESHIRE PROVERBS.

[Nos. 99, 190.—June 19, July 31.]

I believe your correspondent G. T. is scarcely correct in his quotation of the proverb from Randle Holme's work, in which the explanatory paragraph containing it is so interesting that I cannot help giving it at length:

"The point on the back of the Shoemaker's paring Knife is to Score or Trace out the Leather before

he venture to cut it, according to the saying, 'Score twice before you cut once'; else they will cut themselves out of doors." Book 3, p. 292.

CAMBRO-BRITON suggests this may have been derived from the Turkish proverb, "Measure a thousand times, but cut once"; but the Italians have one very similar which runs thus:—"Measure thrice what thou buyest, and cut it but once." This latter would rather point to a Classical source. It however appears more probable that to a very ancient origin must be attributed this and many other of our leading proverbs, which, guised in various forms of phraseology, are to be met with in all the principal European and Asiatic languages. From these primary proverbs a number of secondary offshoots have from time to time sprung up, even in the same language. The following parallel examples may be cited as some which contain the fundamental idea of the proverb to which attention has been drawn by G. T.

Think twice, but speak once.

Think to-day, and speak to-morrow.

Think much, speak little, and write less.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[305] NANTWICH SCHOOL HOUSE.

[No. 260.—Sept. 18.]

On the porch in front of this venerable School-house the following Latin Inscription was carved:—

"Ranulphus Kent, hujus scholæ gymnasiarchus, singulari suo in bonas literas amore ac summa in natale solum pietate, hanc ipsam musarum sedem novo hoc adjuncto ex suis ipsius impensis auxet et donavit."

This, reduced to ordinary English, would run pretty much as follows:—

"Ralph Kent, master of this School, augmented this seat of the Muses by making this addition at his own expense, in token of his very great affection for sound learning, and his especial devotion to his native place."

WILLIAM WEBB, one of the authors of the *Vale Royal*, refers therein to RANULPH KENT in the following terms. Writing of the Nantwich School, he says it "was founded there by Mr. John Thrush and Mr. Thomas Thrush, of London, wooll-packers, is well and sufficiently upheld and maintained to the furtherance of teaching the children of the poor and others; And an ancient and grave Schoolmaster of very near fifty years continuance, Mr. RANDALL KENT, yet Teaches there, with a learned assistant, a Master of Arts of Queen's Colledge in Oxon, whose name is Mr. Shenton, of laudable pains and industry."

Is the original Inscription still existing, and where?

G. T.

OCTOBER 16, 1878.

Original Documents.

[306] THE PLAGUE IN CHESTER.

[Concluded from No. 279.—Oct. 1.]

In appropriate sequence to the article on this subject in *THE SHEAF* for October 1st (thanks again to our good friend MR. CHARLES BRIDGER, of London), we print the following letter. It was addressed by Thomas Wodehouse, and MILES CORBETT the Regicide, to the Mayor of NORWICH, soliciting subscriptions and collections in aid of the stricken City of CHESTER:—

“Westminster, 2 Sept., 1647.

“Gentlemen,

“The sadd condic'on of ye Cittie of Chester; having lately tasted of ye sword, and now lies vnder ye Plague—being presented to vs by p'sons of trust & integritie, We held it our dutie at theire Request to present the same to you, desiring you to imploye yo'r interest and power, that the Ordinance of Parliament, and necessities of the place, may be presented to the people. And we doubt not but the Charitie of such whose hearts God shall incline therein, will be employed by ye p'sons menc'oned in ye Ordinance to the uses therein declared. All which we leave to yo'r Christian considerac'on, Resting

yo'r assured freinds to serve you,
THO. WODEHOUSE.
MILES CORBETT.

To the Right^{Wor}ll John
Vttinge, esqr., Major of the
Citty of Norwich, these.
Norwich.”

What amount was raised altogether, in the several districts appealed to, for the good citizens of CHESTER in this dark hour of trial, we know not. The following list, however, fortunately preserved with the series of letters we have now printed, will show what the men of Norwich did towards meeting the distant emergency:—

“COLLECTION FOR THE INFECTED POORE OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.—St. Martin's att Pallace, £0 18s. 4d.; St. Martins att Oake, £0 7s. 10d.; St. Geo: of Tomeland, £4 0s. 6 ob.; St. Andrewes, £4 10s. 10d.; St. Michaell of Coslany, £0 16s. 0d.; St. Giles, £0 9s. 4d.; St. Margaretts, £0 3s. 4d.; St. Edmunds, £0 5s. 8d.; St. Maryes, £0 9s. 6d.; Peters of Southgate, £0 2s. 6 ob.; St. Geo: of Colegate, £0 13s. 1d.; St. Jeliens, (Julian's), £0 3s. 0d.; St. Austins, £0 3s. 0d.; St. Stephens, £1 0s. 11 ob.; St. Jo: of Timberhill, £0 2s. 1 ob.; St. Lawrence, £0 7s. 1 ob.; St. James, £0 12s. 4d.; St. Jo: of Maher m'kett (Maddermarket), £0 5s. 4d.; All Saints, £0 3s. 7d.; St. Gregoryes, £0 18s. 0 ob.; Michaells at plea, £0 6s. 0d.; St. Peters of Mancroft, £1 13s. 0d.; St. Michaells at [T]horne,

£0 2s. 6d.; St. Peters p' Mount'gate (Mountergate), £0 4s. 8d.; St. Benets, £0 2s. 4d.; St. Swethins, £0 4s. 6d.; St. Saunyors, £0 14s. 6d.; Taken out of of the Hamp'; £0 1s. 10d.; som sent vp is 20li 0s. 0d. [Put upin a bage and sent down to Mr. Brewster, seale vp, to be sent to Mr. Atoens to be dellinared to the mayer burges of Chester.

Endorsed.

Note of the mony sent to Chester to Mr. Acons to be dellinared to the maier of Chester.”

EDITOR.

[307] CHESTER POST OFFICE.

This Office dates from the earliest establishment of a National Letter Post; and the day will come when its history will be discussed with a more than passing interest, should the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand have had the forethought to preserve the papers of Provincial Offices. The following Document indicates that there was something wrong, in 1693, at the Chester Post Office: what that wrong was, possibly future researches may make known:—

“By the Lords Commissioners for
executing the office of Lord High Admiral
of England, &c.

“Whereas you have by your letter of the 3rd inst: te our Secretary given us an account that ye behaviour of the POSTMASTER at CHESTER has given you reason to suspect his zeale for their Majesties Service; You are hereby required and directed forthwith to give us as particular an accompt of ye behaviour of the said POSTMASTER as possibly you can.

“Given under our hand and the Seale of the Office of Admiralty, this 9th day of November, 1693.

FALKLAND.

JOHN LOWTHER. HENRY PRIESTMAN.
To Captain Richard Kirkby,
Commander of their Majesties'
Ship “Southampton,”
Plymouth.

By Command of their Lordships
James Sotherne.”

The original is in the Public Record Office, London, and has been transcribed for *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF* by Captain R. M. BLOMFIELD, R.N.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[308] SIR WILLOUGHBY COTTON AT CABUL.

Just now, as there is so much and such stirring news from India, especially from Afghanistan, the following may be worth inserting in *THE SHEAF*. It is a letter written to an aunt of mine, nearly forty years ago, by the late General Sir Willoughby Cotton, own cousin to the first Lord Combermere.

"Caulul, Sept. 1, 1839.

"My dear Cousin,—In the first place you must pardon my writing to you on this sort of scrap paper, as no other exists in the Camp of Caulul. The papers will have told you of the arrival of the army here on the 6th of last month, and of our fight at Ghuznee.

"Nothing can be more romantic than this place. Surrounded by high mountains, with the everlasting snow of the Hindoo Kush in the background, it is placed in one of the most beautiful valleys in the world, fully realising the Arabian Nights. Streams of transparent water, orchards of every species of fruit excepting the pine,—peaches, pears, grapes, and all sorts of apples, finer than in England.

"The city traces back to the Bactrian dynasty (350 before Christ), and the remains are interesting beyond measure to the antiquary. All the valleys running to the Hindoo side are equally luxuriant and beautiful. The men are a very fine race, the women that I have seen very handsome, and as fair as Europeans. They all boast their descent from the Macedonians, except some tribes of Afghans, who go higher.

"My tents are pitched in a grove outside the city, but I also have a house the King placed at my disposal, belonging to the brother of Doet Mahomed, who has fled. This is in the city, and a large palace, unfurnished, but in very good repair, with the baths complete. I live in the Zenana (the women's rooms, deserted by the fair inhabitants), looking on a terrace, with flower beds, and three marble fountains.

"The army breaks up this month. The Bombay troops retrace their steps to the Indus; the Bengal force, under myself, move on Attock, cross the Punjaub, and then the Sutlej to Jerrypoor, a three months' march.

"I trust you will accept a Cashmere shawl, which I have bought you here, and I will send it by the first safe conveyance. I hope you are all well.

"Lord Auckland and the Edens wish me to go to them at the Lailoh, in the Himalaya, as soon as I reach Scinde, which possibly I may; but there is a possibility I may be required to command the troops going to Burmah (if they really do go), which will take me as quick as possible to Calcutta. If I go on that service, I shall make it my finale in India. God bless you, &c.

Believe me, always,

Most affectionately yours,

WILLOUGHBY COTTON.

Newton.

H.

[309] THOMAS MALLORY THE YOUNGER.

(Concluded.)

At length Mallory's pertinacity was rewarded by a Prebend, viz., the Sixth Stall in Chester, being presented to it on the 30th July, 1660 (Le Neve, iii. 271; Kennet, 333; Ormerod, i. 271). It has been said that he held this stall "till 1682, probably resigning it

on leaving Chester for Northenden." But this date wants modifying. The next Prebendary in Le Neve's list (Evans) was indeed instituted in 1662; but it does not follow that he passed into Mallory's stall, for Le Neve has put all the six prebends in one list, chronologically arranged; but Ormerod (i. 271) has more properly divided the names into six lists, from which it is ascertained that Mallory's successor in the Sixth Stall was appointed in 1664. According to the new edition of Ormerod (i. 271), there is a doubt whether this Prebendary was the same person as the Rector of Northenden.

On 19th Sept., 1660, MALLORY, then called M.A., was further admitted to the Prebend of Wolvey, in the Cathedral of Lichfield (Kennet, p. 333; Le Neve, i. 642). He probably had an early promise of this preferment, for on the 4th August in the same year he signs his name as Preb. de Lichfield to a document advancing the claims of Francis Mosley, minister of Bunbury, in Cheshire, to a Fellowship in Manchester Church, his (Mallory's) associates in that kind office being Dean Henry Bridgeman, D.D., Dean of Chester; Rich. Heyrick (Warden of Manchester); Tho. Case (of London); Joan: Cole, D.D.; B. Eaton, D.D.; and Richard Johnson (Fellow of Manchester).

About this time Mallory would seem to have obtained his degree of S.T.P. In 1661-2 (Feb. 25), Dr. MALLORY was nominated by the Chapter of Chester to the Rectory of St. Mary's, Chester, on the avoidance thereof by Mr. Richard Hunt, in order to a certain agreement between him and Capt. Richard Brereton, of Chester.

Dr. MALLORY was amongst some of his friends at Manchester on Sunday, 9th Nov., 1662, when, as Newcome notes, he "preached on 1 Cor., ix. 26, a learned unprofitable sermon to ye generality of ye people. Though it occasioned no greife as was feared. If ye shepheard fed not as was desired, yet ye watchman smote not as was feared" (*Diary*, 138-9). On 26th September, 1663, Newcome met Dr. Mallory at Mr. Minshull's, in Manchester (*Ibid*, 222). These entries seem to point to Mallory's abode at Northenden. There, in 1665 (12th June), a Mistress Elizabeth Mallory, one of his daughters, as Mr. Earwaker (i. 296) supposes, was buried in the chancel of the church. On August 8, 1665, writes Newcome, "Dr. Mallory, my friend, was in town, and mentioned me to the Bishop [Dr. Geo. Hall, then holding a visitation], which might have been a temptation to me [viz., with respect to conforming], and the talk of it would have been as great and to no purpose but prejudice. But God saved me from the occasion by calling me out, that very hour, to visit one that was sick, as far as Ardwick Green; and when I came back I found the Bishop taking horse and going away" (*Autob.*, p. 152). The last time Dr. Mallory occurs in Newcome's memoirs is on 28th Nov., 1674, where is a reference to the sad

miscarriage of Mrs. Stamp, Dr. Mallory's daughter, which was a matter of much sorrow. "The Lord help us to pray for our children, that they may never misdo at so sad a rate" (*Autob.*, p. 210).

Mallory died at Brindle, near his Rectory of Eccleston, where he was buried on 8th September, 1671. The name Thomas was perpetuated in the family. The old Dean's eldest son, Richard, had a son named Thomas, who died in 1664, leaving a son, Thomas, who was under age in Leycester's time, and patron of Mobberley Church, of which he became Rector in 1684.

I am informed by Mr. Thomas Hughes, who has favoured me with some of the details introduced into these notes on the two Mallorys, that no wills of either of them were proved in London or Chester. An inventory was deposited at Chester of the goods of Thomas Mallory (above-named), late of Mobberley, co. Chester, gent., exhibited by his widow Mary on 1th June, 1664, and administration was granted to her on the 3rd of August following.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

[310] CHESTER CORPORATION RECORDS.

Three times during the present month (September, 1878) I have had occasion to pass through the city of Chester, and on two of them have turned up matters of literary interest.

The last time, Wednesday, September 25th, by the purchase at the railway bookstall of a copy of the *Courant* of that day, I became acquainted with the CHESHIRE SHEAF, and at once determined to subscribe to it, and I now heartily wish it success.

But it is to what took place on my first visit that I wish now to advert. Seeking shelter in the TOWN HALL from a passing shower, my attention was directed to the agenda paper of the Corporation, and especially to one item of it. This was a notice that at a meeting to be held on a day then near at hand, the Town Council would be invited to adopt the recommendation of one of its committees, and to authorise the employment of a gentleman from the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, to make a catalogue of the City Muniments, the estimated cost being £60. I was staying at the Queen Hotel, and thence immediately addressed a letter to the Mayor, asking whether the Town Council would not go a step further, and print the catalogue which it was proposed should be compiled. Moving about shortly afterwards in Wales, I saw in a newspaper, somewhere or other, that the Town Council had adopted the recommendation of the Committee, so that, I presume, the catalogue will be prepared.

My object in now appearing in your columns is to give publicity to the action I took, in the hope that those having local influence may move the Town Council to the further step which I have ventured to suggest. Of the value and real practical utility of such printed catalogues, it cannot, or ought not to be neces-

sary at this time of day, to say one word. If any person be of doubtful mind in this particular, his doubts will vanish if he will but turn to the reports already issued of the HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSIONERS, of which I will be bold to say that no more valuable, interesting, or important documents have ever proceeded from the Parliamentary press.

B. H. BEEDHAM.

Ashfield House, Kimbolton.

[Our correspondent will be glad to learn that the course he suggests is likely to be carried out under the auspices of the Commission.—ED.]

[311] CHILDREN'S FUNERALS.

One of the most touching and frequent sights in my younger days was the mode of conveying children and young females to be buried.

The custom then was for the coffin to be carried by four or six females dressed in white, wearing white muslin scarves over their heads, and bearing the body by means of white napkins passed through the handles of the coffin, nothing being placed on or over it excepting a few white flowers.

There was something beautifully innocent and appropriate in this mode of conveying the remains of the young to their narrow home, compared with the present black hearse or mourning coach, which appears more emblematic of a conveyance to the lower regions than to a peaceful place of rest.

Queen-street.

R. O.

Queries.

[312] HAROLD.

MR. HUGHES has put the very best face that could be put upon the mythical story in relation to the rash but brave Harold, who undoubtedly was killed at the great battle called HASTINGS.

I have copied out of Mr. Williams's "Ancient and Modern Denbigh," the following choice bit, relating to the same personage:—

"In A.D. 1063, Harold, the son of Earl Godwin, at the head of a formidable army, made himself master of the Vale of Clwyd, and all the level country; and falling suddenly upon Prince Griffith ap Llewelyn, who then held his court at Rhuddlan Castle, he took that fortress, and set the Welsh "ships of war," which were lying in the river, on fire, save that in which Griffith escaped "to some foreign land." In the mean time, Toston, Testi, or Tostig, Harold's brother, arrived with a strong body of horse, with which he was left to keep possession of the Vale and Rhoe, whilst Harold led the infantry into Snowdonia. The Welsh, unprepared for war, taken by surprise, and

without their leader, were forced to submit to the conqueror on his own terms, and to pay tribute. Harold set up monuments of his victories in several places, with this inscription, '*Hic fuit victor Haroldus.*'"

Until some better authority is given for this statement, I shall put it down as one of the many curiosities which are converted into history: but here, at all events, we have some land-marks in the "monuments" set up by Harold in divers places with the proud inscription of "*Hic fuit victor Haroldus.*" Now, where are they to be found? I cannot think that Mr. Williams could refer to them so authoritatively if they are not in existence; and I venture to ask him, or some other writer who can do so, to tell us where these "monuments" are to be met with, or the writers who have said they saw them.

A. F. G.

[313]

HANIBAL PRICE.

In 1673, the two churchwardens of Wrexham were Hanibal Price, Esq., and Henry Parry, Esq. Who was HANIBAL PRICE, and in what way was he related to General Humphrey Evans Lloyd, author of the *History of Seven Years War*, who died in 1783? The General had a son HANIBAL EVANS LLOYD. Perhaps some one versed in Welsh family history will kindly work out this for me?

N. B.

[314]

HOUSE GLASSES IN CHURCHES.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, our Cheshire and North Wales divines used to preach out their weary hour, within sight of the cumbrous glass and its slowly decreasing sands. Some indeed went the length of reversing the glass, and treating their congregations—those at least who were not already sound asleep—to a second hour of dry theology! Are there any of these primitive time-indicators remaining in the churches of Cheshire, Denbighshire, or Flintshire?

SEXEX.

Replies.

[315] THE TREASURY IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[No. 138.—July 10.]

This Query of L. L.'s has more of interest in it than would at first blush appear; for I can of my own knowledge endorse his statement that SIR GILBERT SCOTT believed in the existence of a secret chamber somewhere within the Cathedral walls, and for two centuries or upwards lost sight of by the authorities. The late estimable clerk of the works, Mr. FRATER, often conversed with me on this subject; and was on the continual look-out for some such chamber, but his hopes and endeavours therein were not rewarded with success.

What was Sir Gilbert's basis for this belief, I am unable to state; perhaps it was because he had heard that the whole of the CATHEDRAL RECORDS, except some Treasurers' and Receivers' papers, and a few detached fragments, were all missing for at least a century after the Foundation. And it certainly is strange that little or nothing prior to the Restoration should remain in the hands of the Chapter authorities,—no Chapter Act Books, no Church Plate, no ancient MSS., no Library, no counterpart Leases, no Conges d'elire, not even the precious Charter of the Cathedral itself! What can have become of all these evidences? Total destruction at the time of the Civil War is one alternative,—the other a secret storehouse, perhaps walled up, during the Siege, and never revealed to their successors appointed at the Restoration.

In the next No. of THE SHEAF, I shall give a few extracts, from various sources, appearing in some degree to confirm SIR GILBERT SCOTT's inference.

T. HUGHES.

[316]

LORD CHANCELLOR EGERTON.

[Nos. 164, 248.—July 24, Sept. 4.]

The mention, by one of your correspondents, of LORD CHANCELLOR EGERTON, reminded me of an anecdote I read of him some years ago. "Three cattle dealers deposited with an old woman in Smithfield a sum of money, on her undertaking not to give it up until claimed by all three. She was cajoled by one of them to give it to him; whereupon the other two sued her at Westminster. The Court was about to give judgment against her, when Egerton suggested, as *amicus curiæ*, that there could be no breach of contract on her part, until she refused the money on the demand of all three, whereas as yet only two appeared. This timely interposition saved the poor woman from ruin; and the embryo-barrister earned his first laurels before he had obtained his wig and gown. After his call to the bar he displayed such skill in a cause against the Crown that Queen Elizabeth, to avoid his being again employed against her, conferred on him a silk gown, and gave him precedence over other barristers. . . . On the 10th April, 1594, he was made Master of the Rolls, having been previously appointed to the high and honourable office of Chamberlain of the County Palatine of Chester. On the 30th April, 1596, the Queen made him Lord-keeper of the Privy Seal, in conjunction with which office he still retained that of Master of the Rolls; and he proved himself to be a most consummate judge. He was an enemy to absurd prolixity, and on one occasion condemned Richard Mylward, a long-winded pleader, to the degrading penance of walking round Westminster Hall, and into the Courts then sitting, with his bare head thrust through a hole in a ridiculously amplified replication which he had prepared, the long folds of parchment trailing on each side of him!"

The Temple.

E. WILBRAHAM JONES.

OCTOBER 23, 1878.

Original Documents.

[817] SHOOTING-BUTTS AT CHESTER IN 1562.

The practice of SHOOTING AT THE BUTTS with the LONG BOW was specially enjoined by Parliament in the 5th of Edward IV., avowedly for the purpose of keeping alive the English love for Archery, and for that trusty weapon that had sustained the national glory in so many a well fought field. BUTTS were to be provided in each town and township; and every full-grown man was commanded to repair thither on each Feast Day, after divine service, with his own "bow of yew, wych-hazel, ashe, or awborne," and to shoot his quiver-full up and down the Butts, under the penalty of a half-penny for every day's omission. By the Act of 3rd Henry VIII. none but the clergy and judges were exempted from attendance at the Butts. Each pair of these had two mounds of earth, with targets at reverse ends; so that the shooters at each Butt had to walk their hundred paces to pick up their arrows; and then turning round, they shot them again at the opposite target. This was the class of amusement and exercise set up under mayoral authority at CHESTER, to which the following Orders and Regulations so curiously refer:—

"ARTICLES and ORDERS appoyntyd and Set forthe by Mr. JOHN COWPER, mayor of the CITTIE of CHESTER, and the worshipfull Brethren, to be Obs'uid and kept at the GARDYN BUTTS of the Mansion howse of JOHN BELLINGAM the Joyner, w'thowte The Eastgate of the seid Cittie, the thirde Daye of Aprill, Anno D'ni, 1562.

"ffyrst yt ys Orderyd that all Jentilmen, yomen, and other honest and quiytt p'sones Shall have there free Accessee and Recessse for to se the SHEWTERS at the seid BUTTS vpon their honest and quyett behaviors.

"It'm where there ys buyldid, at the prop' costes and chardg's of the foressaid JOHN BELLINGAM, fower Severall paire of BUTTS of Severall Lengthes rayllid close of eu'y syde, and coveryd ou' the heade for the defence aswell of the Shewters as the Standers by, It ys Orderyd that euerie p'sone that shall com in to Shewte at the seid BUTTS, in consideracion of the Chardg's of the seid John, shall for eu'ye daye that he resortyth to the seid BUTTS, and there Shewtyth in game or matche, pay to the said John Bellingam the first game that he Shewteth, be he winner or Losser, o—jd.

"It'm yt ys orderyd that eu'y p'son that resortyth to the said BUTTS, not to thentent to exerceyse him Self in SHEWTYNGE, but the Rather of purpose to be A BETTER and Layer of Wadgers, or p'teyner w'th A Shewter or Better there, That theye and eu'y one of theme comynge for the same purpose, and prac-

tysinge the same, shall as some as they or any of theme shall be so taken BETTINGE, Lainge of Wadgers, or p'te takynge with any Shewter or Better, paye immediately to the seid John Bellingam for eu'y daye that he shall be so taken o—jd, whether he be wyunner or Losser, Or ells to be Secluded & Barryd for any more coming in the seid Gardyn.

"It'm yt ys orderyd that no p'son nor p'sones w'ch shall resorte to the foressaid BUTTS Shall com within the Baylles p'teynyngs to any Butts there or Sytt vpon the same, vnles he be A Shewter in game Shootynge, or be callid in by the Shvters to measure any Shute in contran'eise vpon payn of payynge o—jd. for eu'y Offence, to the Comon Box.

"It'm yt ys orderyd that no p'son shall resorte or Shewte at the seid BUTTS vpon Sendaye or any feestyvall dayes in the tyme of dyvnye s'vice usyd in the Church, or in the tyme of any Sermon. Nor that no Swearer, Blasphemor of gods holly name, Dronker, quarrell pyker, nor feighter, shall resorte to the same BUTTS to disquyett the people or Shewters, vpon payn for eu'ye tyme so doynge to paye to the Comon box o—xijd.; Or ells to be Secludid and Barryd the said Gardyn for eu'.

"It'm yt ys orderyd that no too SHOOTERS shall kepe any Paire of BUTTS above one game, yf there be Any more Shooters w'ch wyll Shoots in there Companye. And also that no p'son Shall Speake any Braggynge words to an other (as to say "yf thou darr Shoots with me, or darr bett with me," w'ch woords be often tymes occasion of Inconuenience, vpon payne of ev'ye tyme so doynge to paye o—ijd. as ys aforesaid.

"It'm yt ys orderyd that yff there be any p'son or p'sones that shall hereafter offend in any of the p'missays, and will not paye the paynes for his or there Offencys above lymyttid and Appoyntid, that then the said JOHN BELLINGAM forthwyth shall brynge the said offender or offenders before Mr. MAYOR, That his and there cause or causys maye be exa'ted, And that he maye take further order for there said offencys.

"It'm yt ys orderid that no p'son or p'sones shall not come to Shewte at the said butts before viij of the Clok in the forenone, nor after viij in the Afternone.

"JOHN COWP', mayor."

Endorsed

"Orders about Shootinge. Jo. Cowp', M'. 1562."

This "John Cowper, mayor," was direct ancestor of the distinguished local family of COWPER of OVERLEIGH, whose ancient residence will be in the memory of our older readers, as occupying very nearly the site of the present Overleigh Lodge entrance to the Duke of Westminster's grounds, at the junction of the Handbridge and Wrexham roads. In an ancient MS. list of Mayors in our possession is the following reference to this Mr. Cowper:—"This Mayer was a good man for the com'on wealth of the Citty. God increase the number of the lyke!"

The site of these "Shewtinge Butts" would in all likelihood be within a square now bounded by Frodsham Street, the Canal, Queen Street, and Foregate Street. If that were so, the Butts would occupy old historic ground, long used for similar purposes and known as the JUSTING CROFT: here the local aristocrats and would-be knights of the middle ages practised themselves in tilt and tourney, and in other martial and chivalric arts.

How long the Butts continued in full swing does not appear; but it is pretty certain that they ultimately, with their owner, came to dire disaster. This we gather from the fact that JOHN BILLINGHAM, who had been made a Freeman of Chester city in 1550, was reduced in 1584 to the position of a pauper, as the following extracts from the Treasurers' Books of Chester Cathedral clearly indicate:—

"1584. Given by the consent of Mr. Deane and the Chapter to an old man named Billingham.....ijs.

"1591. To Byllinnam, a poore old man.....xvjd.

"1592. Item to Billingham, a poore olde man.....xijd."

The Chapter's charity was in this instance dispensed on a descending scale; when it reached 1/-, either the old man got tired of begging, or died, for he is met with in these Accounts no more.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[318] CHESTER IN 1682.

Ralph Thoresby, the historian of Leeds, visited Chester in the year 1682 (on July 23, 1703, he alludes to his "Cousin Thoresby of Chester"); and although the following extract from his *Diary* is somewhat meagre, it is none the less interesting:—

"1682. June 5.—Chester, that ancient and famous city where I spent the rest of the day (except about two or three hours discourse with Dr. Bispham, the ancient sub-dean of Chester, and Alderman Floyd, about the antiquities of the town), mostly in the churches of St. Werburgh, St. John Baptist, and St. Mary, but met with a disappointment as to tombs of bishops: this being one of the bishoprics of the royal foundation by King Henry VIII, there can be none of any great antiquity: of the modern bishops, none are buried there but Dr. Hall and Dr. Bridgeman (brother to the famous Lord Keeper), late Bishop of the Isles, who dying about May, 1682, was interred in St. Werburgh's, but as yet there is no monument or inscription. Evening, I walked round the walls; observed the situation of the city, and had a prospect of Wales towards Flint; the walls are kept in excellent repair by the Muringers.

6. Up pretty early writing; took a view of the Castle, in which is the Hall for the Judges, inferior to none in England, that I have seen, except Westminster.

In St. Peter's Church I found a remarkable tomb for the Offleys, great benefactors; and in the pentis or town-house, his picture, with Mr. Randall's, [?] and Sir Thomas White's, with an account of their pious gifts, and of Bronghton's; from which pentis there is a curious prospect into the four best streets: in all which, and indeed, most of the city, we may pass through the rows in a stormy day without the least rain or prejudice. It is a sort of building peculiar to this city, the like they say not being to be seen in Europe again; they are as walls chambered above, and cellared below, with shops mostly on both sides. From this ancient city (though I could find few monuments of antiquity in memory of the famous Earls of Chester) I departed about ten o'clock, and rode through a very pleasant country, and over a remarkable hill called Helsby Tor, (a Derbyshire word, I think, for crag, or rook,) to Frodsham."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[319] MRS. JORDAN THE ACTRESS.

Mr. Williams, the historian of Denbigh, asserts that this remarkable lady was born at or near Llanannan, in Denbighshire. He gives no authority for this statement, and I should feel obliged to any one of your Welsh readers who make Biography a study, to take this subject in hand and try to unravel it. The "famous laughing beauty" who stole the heart of Prince William, and who was the "soul of kindness and generosity," with all her faults is very dear to the English people: her genius, and her beauty charmed the hearts of thousands, her misfortunes their pity; and if it can be proved that she was one of our near neighbours by birth, *Cestrian* interest in her will be greatly enhanced.

ARIADNE.

[320] A CASE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

The following obituary notice appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1801:—

"Lately at Chester, aged ninety-two, Christopher Lowe, many years bill-distributor for the Theatre Royal of Chester. This venerable patriarch was a native of Preston, and, when in his 16th year, was afflicted with a fever, of which he apparently died. He was laid out, shrouded and coffined; and nearly three days after his supposed demise, while being carried on four men's shoulders to the grave, he suddenly knocked at the lid of the coffin; and to the ineffable amazement of the carriers and attendants, on opening it, they found honest Christopher in a complete state of resuscitation. For many years after, he used to amuse and astonish his neighbours and friends with the 'wonderful things he saw in his trance.'"

Steam Mill-street.

J. H.

[321] ARMS IN TRINITY CHURCH, CHESTER.

In Sandford's splendid volume, *A Genealogical History of the Kings of England, &c.*, 1677, p. 382, speaking of the Royal Arms of Edward IV., he writes: "I find his escutcheon supported in three several places:

first in an east window of TRINITY CHURCH, in CHESTER, his arms are painted standing upon a Faulcon within a Fetterlock, ensigned with a Crown, and supported with the Bull of Clare, and the Lyon of March."—Are these interesting arms still preserved?

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, Manchester.

Queries.

[322] OLD HOOTON HALL TOWER.

In Ormerod's *Cheshire*, vol. 2, p. 228, and in Lysons, *Magna Britannia—Cheshire*, page 653, there are given engravings of the old Hall of the Stanleys, at HOOTON. Prominent in each view is an ancient crenellated tower, giving great dignity and charm to the Hall itself, now, alas, altogether a thing of the past. When was this venerable tower erected, and by whom? It seems to have been much earlier in date than the rest of the old mansion shown in the engravings.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[323] THE GROVES, CHESTER.

The River Dee at and above the Weir at Chester would immensely lose in that picturesqueness for which it is now justly celebrated, were it not for the hundreds of trees which clothe its banks from thence far away into Wales. The delicious avenue known as THE GROVES, immediately under St. John's Church, will go far to prove the truth of my remark. To whose taste and discernment are we Cestrians indebted for this very substantial boon?

A WOODMAN.

[324] CHESTER VOLUNTEERS.—THE OLD COLOURS.

Your correspondent S. J. E., in his Notes on BISHOP MAJENDIE [CHESHIRE SHEAF, No 280] incidentally refers to the COLOURS of the OLD CHESTER VOLUNTEERS. I have made many inquiries as to the present resting place of these Colours, but hitherto without success; although my own idea is that they are deposited at CREWE HILL, the residence of the BARNSTON family. This is I believe doubted by the present representatives of the family, who say that the Colours which are at Crewe Hill belonged to the "Old Cheshire Militia," of which regiment one of the Barnston family was colonel. Perhaps some of your readers can give me some information as to what became of the OLD CHESTER VOLUNTEERS, as the last mention I can find about them is that the officers were entertained at dinner by Mr. EGBERTON, at OULTON, in the latter end of 1807. In the following year I find that the CHESTER LOCAL MILITIA, with an establishment of 1223, was formed, and their Colonel was undoubtedly Colonel ROGER BARNSTON. Is it possible that the "Old Chester Volunteers" of 1807 are the same as the

"Chester Local Militia," of 1808? If so, I think this goes a long way to prove that the Colours which are at Crewe Hill are the Colours of the "Old Chester Volunteers."

VOLUNTEER.

Replies.

[325] MOCK-BEGGAR HALL.

[Nos. 63, 79, 108, 155.—May 29, June 5, 19, July 17.]

Some account of MOCK-BEGGAR HALL, in Leasowe, will be found in the new edition of Ormerod's HISTORY OF CHESHIRE; the last issued Part (IX.) of which, page 474, contains an original note on the subject.

S. S.

[326] THE TREASURY OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[Nos. 138, 315.—July 10, October 16.]

In fulfilment of a recent pledge, I append the following extracts from different sources, pointing to the existence of a TREASURE HOUSE within the confines of this Cathedral, the whereabouts of which is now unknown.

Sir PETER LEYCESTER, in his *Antiquities touching Cheshire*, p. 109, referring to the Charters granted by Earl Hugh to St. Werburgh's Abbey, A.D. 1093, says

"This agrees in time with the Original Charter of the Foundation, which I transcribed out about 1644, then remaining among the Evidences of that Church, which were then kept in a certain room within St. Werburgh's Church in Chester."

He says further, at p. 117, that the Evidences in question were "after removed thence in the late War, 1648." Sir Peter was resident in Chester through great part of the SIEGE, but had left it prior to 1648, and would therefore glean this last-named information mainly upon hearsay.

Harking back to the sixteenth century, and taking our data from the Treasurers' Accounts of the DEAN AND CHAPTER, the existence then and for nearly a century afterwards of the Cathedral TREASURE HOUSE is placed beyond all cavil. Thus, there were paid in

"1572-3. For tacking of (taking off) a Locke in ye treasury house, and me'dyng ye same	xiiijd.
"1583. For 2 lodes of coles and two of turfes for the Treasury house	xviijd.
"1584. Payd to Stocken (the smith) for openinge of the lockes of the Treasury house dore	iiijd.
"1602. For a new key to the Treasury house dore	vjd.
"1604. For mending the locke of the Treasury house dore	iiijd.
"1623. A Locke and key for the Letters Patents	iiijd.

From this date, the TREASURE HOUSE is no more named in the Chapter Records. But if it be the same

room with which SIR PETER LEYCESTER was acquainted, the disappearance or disuse of the chamber is contemporaneous with the last days of the SIEGE OF CHESTER.

T. HUGHES.

[327] THOMAS MALLORY, DEAN OF CHESTER.

[No. 244.—September 4.]

On reading the account of DEAN MALLORY by Mr. BAILEY, and then referring to Mr. HELSBY's *Ormerod*, and subsequently to some notes of my own, I observe an discrepancy and trifling absence of date, which perhaps may be useful in the future if stated here.

According to the *History of Cheshire*, p. 421, "Thomas Mallory married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Vaughan, bishop of Chester, and had issue 1, Richard, married to Lucy, daughter of Holland of Hendre Vawr, Esq.; who had issue, 1, Thomas; 2, Richard; 3, William; Lucy; Elizabeth.

Dean Mallory's other children were: 2, Thomas, bapt. at Davenham, 1605; 3, William, bapt. at Davenham, 1606; 4, Thomas; 5, George; 6, John, bapt. at Davenham, 1612; 7, Avery; 8, Everard; and four daughters."

In the Parish Register of St. Oswald's, Chester, two other sons are named, who do not appear in the above list, viz. :—

"Philip Mallory, son to the Right Wor'tl Mr. Thomas Mallorie, Dean of Chester, bap. April 29, 1618"; and

"Francis Mallory, sonne to Mr. Mallorie, Dean of Chester, baptised 13 January, 1622."

And in St. Peter's Registers, Chester,

"Mr. Richard Mallory and Mrs. Luce Holland were married the seventeenth of January, 1631.

"Eliath. Mallory, d. of Rich'd. bapt. 22 Nov., 1632.

"Thos. Mallory, son of Mr Richard, bap. 27 Dec., 1623.

"Roger Mallory, son of Mr. Richard, bap. 18 Dec., 1634."

Thus we have three members of this family not in *Ormerod*—Philip, Francis, and Roger. *Ormerod* says the Dean had twelve children, Mr. Bailey eleven. So that, assuming the number was 12 according to the former computation, then, adding the two new named, who are shown to have been baptised at St. Oswald's, the number properly should be 14.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[328] FIGDALE.

[No. 287.—October 2.]

In an account of ECCLESTON Parish, published in 1771, by the REV. THOMAS CRANE, Second Grammar Master of the Chester King's School, there is the following extract shewing that FIGDALE was a "Village" [? *vill*] in that Parish :—

"Places of most note in this Parish are, EATON HALL, a seat of Lord Grosvenor; EATON GREEN, where lives Henry Vigers, Esquire, (elected Mayor of Chester in October, 1771); EATON BOAT HOUSE, where a horseman may be ferried over the Dee for one penny, a footman for half so much; Eaton Park

Wall barn; FIGDALE, a Village; Rake Farm; Belgrave Farms; and Eccleston, a Village."

The Village of FIGDALE was situate in Eaton Park, near the bank of the river Dee, not far from the Machine Lodge (the Eccleston Village entrance to the Park), and, so far as I can learn, was a small straggling one; but in 1481, to which your correspondent L. L. alludes, it may have been larger in dimensions and of mere importance.

It must have been demolished at the latter part of last century, or the commencement of the present; but still, the *late* Home Farm and Stud House of His Grace the Duke of Westminster, are on the *site* of FIGDALE, if they did not also form part of it. I have seen the name described as *Figden*.

Before the Ferry at Eccleston was in existence, one crossed the Dee near where the present engine house and gas works at Eaton stand; this appears to me to have been the extremity of Figdale, and near it was the "Boat House" Inn, bowling green, &c., kept about the middle of last century by J. Wild. There were also a mill, blacksmith's shop, &c., there.

There are several stones in Eccleston churchyard to the memory of persons once resident at FIGDALE,—the Davies', Clays', Hughes', Higgins', &c.

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

In *Hanshall's History of Cheshire*, p. 328, we read that

"FIGDALE, a hamlet of Eaton, was situated immediately beyond the Keeper's Lodge, in the present Park. It now no longer exists as a separate *vill*; the houses in it were chiefly on the bank of the Dee, and the site of them is now occupied by the farmhouse of the Bailiff, the Groom's Stables, &c."

Lysons' Cheshire, 1810, p. 656, adds, "Figden, now called Figdale, is a hamlet of Eaton, the property of Earl Grosvenor." From these quotations, I think it may be concluded, that Figdale would be that portion of the Duke of Westminster's estate where the bones of the celebrated race horse, "Touchstone," now lie, and its boundary commenced probably at the brook which about that point flows into the Dee.

Ledsham.

R. M.

OCTOBER 30, 1878.

Original Documents.

[329] IRISH AND CHESTER INTERCOURSE IN 1702.

In the PETITION here printed from the Public Records, we obtain a slight notion of the dangers of the passage between Chester and Dublin at the beginning of the 18th century, consequent on the war with Louis XIV. of France. The date of the Petition does not

appear upon the record; but judging from the Privy Council's Order, it would be somewhere about the beginning of May, 1702:—

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Merchants of the City of Chester whose names are subscribed, sheweth:

"That the Prosperity of the said City doth chiefly depend upon Trade at Sea and particularly to and from the City of DUBLIN and other Parts of the kingdom of Ireland: That in the time of War, the Irish Channell is greatly infested with Privatiers, invited thither by the Prospect of intercepting the Coale Fleetes, and other ships with persons of great Quality and very valuable goods, passing to and from that kingdom; and by reason those seas are remote from the usuall Stations of the Guardships of this kingdom: That your Petitioners, by the sad Experience of their great and frequent losses during the last warr, have just reason to fear that they shall be utterly disabled to serve your Majesty or to carry on their Trade, unless due Provision be made for their security during the present warr with France.

"May it therefore please your most Excellent Majesty, of your accustomed Grace & Clemency to give order, that some Ship or Ships of War may cruize constantly in the said Irish Channell for the Security of Trade, Commerce, and Passage between the City and that Kingdom. And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever Pray &c.

Thomas Hand, Mayor

Roger Comberbach
William Ince
William Wilson
Hugh Starkey
Francis Skellern
Peter Bennett
William Allen
Henry Bennett
William Bennett
William Coker
Nicholas Johnson
Robert Murray
William Allen (Jun'r)
Owen Ellis
Thomas Parnell
Thomas Bowker
Hugh Colley

Lewis Parry
Saml Payne
Willm. Moyle
James Comberbach
Thomas Dyton
Robert Denteth
James Hutchinson
George Bennion
Samuel Simpson
Thomas Edwards
William Cokayn
Robert Sparke
John Murrey
Robt. Bulkeley
John Pugh
John Yeoman."

"At the Court at St. James's,
31 May, 1702.

"Present the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

"Upon reading this day at the Board the Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Merchants of the City of Chester, It is ordered by Her Majesty's Council that it be, as it is hereby, referred to His Royal Highness PRINCE GEORGE OF DENMARK, Lord High Admiral of England, to give such directions as shall be necessary for the security of the Irish Channell by some of Her Majesty's ships of war to cruize to those seas, as is desired by the said Petitioners: a copy whereof is annexed.

John Povey."

Notting Hill Gate.

B. M. B.

Notes.

[830] CHESHIRE PUBLIC CARRIERS IN 1637.

In John Taylor's *The Carriers' Cosmography*, published in London in 1637, and recently republished by Mr. Arber, F.S.A., there are some particulars of the traffic of Chester with London. The book consists of an alphabetic arrangement of certain towns of England having communication, by means of "carriers, waggons, foot-posts, and higglers," with the metropolis; with the names of the London Inns, Ordinaries, Hostleries, &c., where the carriers, &c., might be found. Only three Cheshire towns are upon this list, but the communication was pretty frequent, being four days per week. The period in question was that immediately after the death of old Hobson, of Cambridge, whose name has passed into a proverb, and who was the forerunner of the modern Chaplins and Hornes. "To find direction how to receive or send goods or letters" from or to Cheshire, the Londoners were supplied with this information:—

The Carriers of Chester do lodge at the CASTLE in Wood-street. They are there to be had on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

The Carriers of Chester do lodge at BLOSSOM's or Bosson's Inn in St. Lawrence lane, near Cheapside: every Thursday.

The Carriers at Nantwich do lodge at the AXE in Aldermanbury. They are there Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

The Carriers from Stopford in Cheshire do lodge at the AXE in Aldermanbury. Also there [at that Inn] are Carriers to other parts of Cheshire.

Wood-street, where some of the Chester Carriers stopped, was between Cheapside and London Wall. The Inn in St. Lawrence-lane, corruptly called Bosson's, had in Stow's time "one large Inn for receipt of Travellers;" having for a sign St. Lawrence the Deacon in a border of blossoms or flowers. The AXE was the Inn where the Lancashire wains put up; so that the Stockport and Nantwich Carriers may either have been the same as those who started from Manchester or Bolton, taking the Cheshire towns in their way; or else may have travelled in the company of their Lancashire brethren. The route of the latter lay through this village, in the registers of which it is noticeable that, about 1650, Carriers begin to be mentioned.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

[831] THE LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF CHESHIRE.

An article in *Notes and Queries* of Saturday week is so full of county interest that we make no apology for inserting it here *in extenso*. It has, as will be at once

seen, an especial significance at this moment, when all our Cheshire calculations are about to be overturned by a new law:—

"An Act of Parliament has lately been passed, which will come into operation on the 1st of January next, rendering it illegal to use any other than the imperial weights and measures. A list of the standard measures of weight, capacity, and length is published, and 'every contract, bargain, sale, or dealing made in the United Kingdom, for any work, goods, wares, or merchandise, or other thing which has been or is to be done, sold, delivered, carried, or agreed for by weight or measure, shall be deemed to be made and had according to one of the imperial weights or measures ascertained by this Act, or to some multiple or part thereof.' In order to enforce uniformity in this respect, the use of any local weight or measure is punishable by a fine of forty shillings. Very little has been heard of this Act, and most farmers throughout the country will be taken by surprise. No doubt it is extremely desirable that there should be uniformity, for the use of local weights and measures is very puzzling to those who are not accustomed to them. Every county at present adopts a metrical system of its own; and in many cases even neighbouring parishes adopt different weights and measures in buying or selling their produce.

"It has always seemed to me to be desirable to make and publish a collection of the names of local weights and measures for convenience sake, and I think such a collection would not be without interest; but the local weights and measures are so numerous that it would be a work of magnitude involving considerable labour. It seems specially desirable to collect them now that they are to be abolished, for during the next generation they will be quite forgotten; and as many of them are interesting from their antiquity, others from being called by names not in general use, and some because they are actually more convenient than the standard weights and measures, it seems to me that it would be legitimate work for the readers of "N. & Q." to collect and record them as matters of curiosity, if they do not quite come under the category of folk-lore. I therefore send, as a first instalment, a few notes on Cheshire weights and measures, trusting that other correspondents may follow suit from other counties.

"In Cheshire twenty-four sheaves of corn are called a thrave. The threshing machine has in a great degree superseded the flail; but when hand threshing is done by piecework it is always done at so much per thrave. The farmer counts out two or three thraves at a time for his men to thresh, and keeps a record of the amount of work done.

"The Cheshire measure does duty for the standard bushel. In different localities the measure of wheat varies from 70 lbs. to 75 lbs. and 80 lbs. Four measures make one load. In buying wheat it is therefore necessary to specify what weight a measure or a load is

expected to be; but formerly I recollect there were measure, half-measure, and peck cylinders, and corn was no doubt sold by measure as well as by weight. As a rule in Cheshire everything is reckoned by scores, in order to assimilate with the long hundredweight, which was formerly in general use. A Cheshire man always thinks in scores, if I may use such an expression, both as regards weight and number. He knows nothing of stones, but he values his pig by estimating how many score pounds it will be. He counts his money by twenties. If a hundred pounds have to be counted he makes five piles of twenty sovereigns each, not ten of ten each: but I notice that even bankers do this, in the North at anyrate; I do not know whether or not it is their practice elsewhere. The score being in such general use, it is more common in buying wheat to specify that it shall be 14, 15, or 16 scores to the load than 70 lbs., 75 lbs., or 80 lbs. to the measure, these weights per measure corresponding to the above weights per load. The quantities in which wheat and all kinds of grain are sold are measures, half-loads, and loads. We know nothing in Cheshire of quarters as measures of quantity, though we do buy Indian corn by the quarter in Liverpool. The measure of oats weighs 45 lbs. or 50 lbs. in different localities. A load of oats, however, is seldom spoken of; they are usually only sold by the measure. Beans are sold by the load of 12 score or 240 lbs., and a measure of beans weighs 60 lbs. The old name "pack" for anything weighing 240 lbs. is frequently heard in Cheshire; but even the classical "pack" which we learned in our "tables" is now abolished; everything must be sold by hundredweights or tons.

"Potatoes are sold by the score of 21 lbs., which is also considered equivalent to a peck; but though the peck is recognised, the bushel of four pecks is seldom or never heard of except in seedsmen's shops. Potatoes are either sold by the score or by the load of 12 score 12 lbs., that is 12 \times 21, or 252 lbs. Hampers are also made which are supposed to contain half a load, and in them potatoes are sometimes sold without weighing, but they are generally weighed.

"Formerly in Cheshire, I presume, everything was sold by the long hundredweight of 120 lbs., for in my younger days the sets of weights at farms used to be 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, and 60 lbs. respectively. Cheese is, I think, now the only article which is sold by the long owt. It is a far more convenient weight to use than the standard owt., because it is assimilated to our duodecimal coinage, and calculations become as simple as if we had adopted a complete system of decimal weights and decimal coinage. Thus 6d. per lb. is 60s. per owt. and £60 per ton; 6½d. per lb. is 62s. 6d. per owt. and £62 10s. per ton; 6¾d. per lb. is 65s. per owt. and £65 per ton, and so on.

"Fruit is sold by the peck, the measure of four pecks, and the hamper of six pecks. A peck of apples weighs 14 lbs.; of pears, 16 lbs.; and of plums, 18 lbs.

"I can recollect the time, not many years since, when a pound of butter was different in different markets. Seventeen or eighteen ounces were frequent weights, but at Northwich twenty ounces went to the pound.

"In long measure the rood (i.e. rod) of 8 yards is adopted for most purposes. Such piecework as hedging and ditching, draining, putting up rails, &c., is done by the rood of 8 yards. Square measure also is founded upon the 8 yard rood. A square rood is 8×8 , or 64 yards, and digging used always to be paid for by the square rood. Cheshire square measure runs thus:—64 yards=1 rood; 40 roods or 2,560 yards=1 quarter; 4 quarters, or 10,240 yards=1 acre. Mowing, spreading manure, and ploughing, are frequently "set," i.e., let at so much per Cheshire acre; and it is easily measured by working men because, roughly, 100 yards, or a little more correctly, 102 yards, stepped each way, makes an acre. A Cheshire farmer can hardly "take in" a statute acre; and I feel very sure that considerable mistakes are made in the annual Agricultural Returns in consequence of farmers inadvertently putting down Cheshire acres instead of statute.

"In the standard code four gills make a pint; in Cheshire a gill invariably means half a pint.

"We have an old colloquial saying when we are receiving or giving good measure, namely, that it is 'Maxfield measure, up-yeped and thrutched,' that is, it is heaped up and pressed down. We shall now have to discard this saying, for I see it is especially enacted in clause 17 that the use of a heaped measure shall be unlawful.

ROBERT HOLLAND.

Norton Hill, Buncoorn."

The subject from the Cheshire point of view is, however, by no means exhausted in this interesting article, and we trust it may yet receive much additional illustration at the hands of the correspondents of THE SHEAF.

EDITOR.

Queries.

[332] TWO CHESTER SEALS.

In the Appendix to Dr. Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* (1819), vol. iii., p. 442, is an illustration of the seal affixed to the recognizances made under the Statute Merchant, by the merchants of Chester, in the middle ages. The earliest instance of its occurrence appears to be 28 Edward III. [1354], a drawing of the seal then used occurring in the Harl. MS. 2074, p. 227. I have recently seen an example of it, dated 24th Elizabeth (1512), and no doubt it was used down to a much later period. Dr. Ormerod states that in 1819 the original silver matrix was "now or late in the possession of Mr. BROSTER, of CHESTER."—Is it known where this

interesting seal is now preserved? The inscription round the obverse was, S : EDW : REG : ANGL : AD RECOGN : DEBITOR : APD : CESTRIAM.

Mr. BROSTER had also in his possession the silver matrix of another Chester seal, bearing the inscription, SIGILLVM : SECRETI : MAIORIS : CESTRIE : round a shield of arms; the three lions of England differenced by a label of 5 points, the shield placed between two garbs.—Is this seal still in existence? E.

[333] THE NANTWICH BELLMAN.

The learned John Ray, M.A., and F.R.S., in his *Itineraries*, under date May 14th, 1662, states that

"At Nantwyoh they have a Custom like that in Scotland; when anyone is dead, a Bellman goeth about the streets the Morning that the dead Person is to be buried, tinkling a Bell he has in his Hand, and now and then makes a Stand, and invites the People to come to the Funeral at such an Hour."

Does the Custom still prevail, or when was it discontinued? E. E. B. S.

[334] PARKGATE.

Can the name of this once celebrated Packet Station and Watering Place be derived from the name of the land between NESTON and it? In former times the land was called the PARK—when divided into fields "The Parks":—through these there was a footpath only, the main road to the Shore being the road through Moorside. The fields on the right hand side of the road from Neston still retain the name of the Parks.

Dublin.

WM. MONK GIBBON, LL.D.

Replies.

[335] GOD'S GARDEN.

[No. 184.—July 31.]

I am surprised that none of your West-Cheshire correspondents have vouchsafed a Reply to this Query. The term "God's Garden" may possibly be associated with more churches than one in our old county; but I know it is commonly applied to an octagonal turret at the south-west angle of BUNBURY Collegiate Church, one of the noblest sacred edifices in Cheshire. This graceful turret adjoins and opens into the tower; from which a small door, about midway in the ascent, leads on to the flat roof of the turret. It is this roof which, all open to the sky, and looking down upon the village and beautiful country around it, is locally known as GOD'S GARDEN;—and who is there who will say that its pious title is a misnomer?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[336] OLD PLANS OF CHESTER.

[No. 233.—August 28.]

Leaving the first part of Mr. EARWAKER's query for future treatment on the judicious lines he has there laid down, I may here inform him that the large and in many ways admirable PLAN OF CHESTER he has brought before our notice was drawn in the year 1745 by Alexander de Lavaux, an officer of Engineers then stationed in Chester Castle, and engraved by R. Parr, on a scale of 40 chains to an inch.

In a reply to the query of another correspondent (see next number of THE SHEAF), I have added some further remarks on this officer's connection with Chester, and to this I would direct Mr. Earwaker's notice.

T. HUGHES.

[337] THE BEAR AND KNUTSFORD CHAPEL.

[Nos. 267, 289.—Sept. 25, Oct. 2.]

MR. G. W. NAPIER, of Alderley Edge, has been good enough to supplement this curious account of the introduction of a bear into the Chapel at Knutsford, by referring the writer to the Rev. HENRY GREEN's *Knutsford: its Traditions and History*, pp. 53-4, from which it seems that the Chapel was that which occupied the site of the present Grammar School;—a fact which is confirmed by your Knutsford correspondent. Moreover, an approximate date can be given to the circumstance. It appears that in 1685 it was in dispute whether the right to the chapel was vested in the town, or in the owner of Norbury Booths, Peter Legh, Esq; and depositions were taken. EDWARD FALLOWES, of Toft, yeoman, aged 80 years and upwards, said that 60 years before (*i.e.*, in 1626) "there was a rude fellow brought a beare into the said Chappell now in variance, whereupon much trouble did ensue; and the bishopp did suspend or interdict the said Chappell, and prohibitt all preaching and praying there for about a twelvemonth; and believes it was consecrated anew." WILLIAM HIGHFIELD, of Berton, yeoman, aged 75, deposed that 69 years before (*i.e.*, about 1617) he, being then a child, was present with his father in the chapel, when one Thomas Bateman brought a person with him to the said chapel, who had bears in the town; and the said bearward brought a bear into the chapel, "and led him into the pulpit and caused him to put his foot on the pulpit desk. Whereupon the then bishop p'hibitted preaching in the said Chappell for about twelve months, till the same was again consecrated, w'ch dep't. heard his father say would cost Nether Knutsford £5." Mr. GREEN does not say from what source he quotes these depositions.

As to the date, it must have been a little after the time so exactly stated by HIGHFIELD, since Bishop Bridgeman, who figures in the narrative, was not elected to the see until 1619.

A similar circumstance occurred in connection with S. Warberowe's (*i.e.*, Werburgh's) Church, Bristol, in 1624, when one OWEN CHARLES "polluted" the building. It was accordingly closed from 11 June that year to 11 July following, when Dr. WRIGHT, Bishop of Bristol, "reconciled and purged" it with great solemnity.—*Observations on the Churches of Bristol*, 1843, p. 237.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILLY.

[338] THE OLDEST HOUSE IN ENGLAND.

[No. 286.—October 2.]

I know the house well to which LUCY D. T. refers in her query. It stands on the east side of Lower Bridge-street, a little to the northward of the old Albion Hotel; and has at one time been a handsome and important building of the wood and plaster class so typical of the city and county. But, unfortunately, the romance thrown over the house by our fair correspondent must all be dashed aside to make way for stubborn fact. I am sorry to have to tell her that the beam upon the front, on which the large date was carved, and which latter certain'y now looks like 1003, was originally 1603: that the house was not so many years ago in the repairer's hands; the result being that the top of the figure 6 was either plastered over or cut away, thus adding, from the showman's point of view, six centuries to its apparent date.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[339] THOMAS EGERTON, MEDALLIST.

[No. 302.—October 9.]

In a pedigree of our family, compiled in 1822 by the late Rev. John Egerton, M.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, and preacher of Bunbury, I find the following entry:—

"Thomas, son of William Egerton, of Betteley, [co. Stafford]—Citizen & Mercer of London, Master of the Mint in the reign of Queen Mary, & then of Walgrave in the parish of Leek, co. Stafford. He married Anne, dr. of Langton of Hertfordshire, of the house of Langton, co. York."

The words "under date, Sept., 1544," in your paragraph 302, are, I assume, a misprint for "under date, Sept. 10th, 1554," the year in which Mary contracted her marriage with Philip of Spain.

Mr. Wm. Edward Ward, clerk of the Mercer's Company, in 1822 furnished my great uncle with the information, from the books of the Company, that "THOMAS EGERTON was entitled to his Freedom by servitude, as an apprentice to Thomas Fuller, that he was admitted in 1542, that he served the office of Renter-Warder in 1574-5, and that his son Timothy was admitted to the Freedom by patrimony in 1565."

JOHN COKER EGERTON.

Burwash Rectory, Sussex.

NOVEMBER 6, 1878.

Original Documents.

[340] FRODSHAM CHURCH PULPIT.

What is looked upon as wrong in one generation is sometimes the pink of perfection in the next; and this is the experience we meet with on all hands, whether it be in the fickle flights of fashion, or in the weightier matters of the Church or of the State.

The country parish of FRODSHAM had its ups and downs of religious controversy in the 17th century, like its more stirring and populous neighbours; but there, it would appear that the old Church PULPIT was the bone of contention between the two great factions. The high Churchmen of Charles the First's days had lovingly placed their rostrum on the north side of the church: the Puritans, when they got possession, apparently for mere perverseness' sake shifted it to the south side; and thus, when the ball rolled round once more, and "the King had got his own again," the loyalty of the Frodsamers came hotly to the front, and the result, as recorded in the BISHOP'S REGISTRAR'S BOOKS at Chester, was

"An Order for the removeing of ye Pulpit in ffrodsham church to'ts the North Pillar.

"To the Vicar and Churchwardens of FFRODSHAM in the County and Diocese of Chester, GEORGE, L'd Bishop of Chester, sendeth Greetings.

"Whereas the PULPIT of the Parish Church of FFRODSHAM aforesaid was, in time of the late Rebellion, without any lawfull Authority remooved from its ancient place, where 'twas sett by order, vnto another place never allowed nor approved of by the Ordinary. Therefore I the said Bishop doe require you, the said Vicar and Churchwardens, forthwith to remoove, or cause to be removed, the said PULPIT from the Place where now it standeth without order, to the Place where it formerly stood by order, which appears to be the North Pillar. As you will answer the contrary.

"Given under my Hand and Seale, this 12th day day of November, in the yeare of our Lord God, 1664.

"GEO: CESTRIENS."

"A CERT'E VPON YE REMOVAL OF YE PULPIT ABOVE SAID.

"Wee, the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church of FFRODSHAM, Whose names are subscribed, In obedience to the order of the Lord Bishop of Chester, abouewritten, Caused the PULPIT to be removed from the South Pillar of the Church to the Place where it formerly stood fixed, at a Pillar on the North side of the middle Alley in the Body of the said Church, where anciently by order it stood. Witness our Hands the fifth day of November, 1665."

"J. DAVIS, Vic.
THOMAS GUEST
ELWARD JOHNSON } Gard' :"

It is not unlikely that the Churchwardens' Books at Frodsam would, if examined, reveal some further particulars of this pulpit controversy.

T. HUGHES.

[341] THE PLAGUE AT NANTWICH.

Are the following extracts from our Nantwich Parish Registers of any use for preservation in THE SHEAF? If so, they are entirely at your service:—

"*Note in Register of Burials, 1604.*—'This yeare to gether with the former yeare & the yeare following, this Realme of England was visitted with a contagious plauge generally, whereof many thousands in London, and other Townes & Cities, Dyed of the same. The sayd plauge began in our Town of Namptwich about the 24 of June 1604, being brought out of Chester, & here dispersed diversely, so y't presently our Market was spoyled, the Towne abandoned of all the wealthy inhabitants: who fledd for refuge into divers places of the country adjoyninge. But of those which remained at home ther Dyed from the 12 of June till the 2 of March followinge about the Number of 430 persons of all dedeases. Now seeing god in mercy hath withdrawn his punishinge hand, & hath quenched the sparke of contagious infection amonge us, God grannt that now Repentance may prevent further punishment & that the rem'brance of this plauge past may remain in our hearts for that purpose for ever. Amen.'

Note in Register of Marriages, 1604.—'Note. Here is wanting all the Marriages which were in 1604, by reason of the plauge which hinder'd the good proceedinge of the Register for that yeare.'

Note in Register of Baptisms the same year.—'Note. Here wanteth part of a yeare by reason of the plauge.'

FOSTER J. BLACKBURN.

Nantwich Rectory.

Notes.

[342] THE REV. MR. THOMAS'S SERMONS.

Your readers may be interested in the 8vo. volume of Cheshire discourses here described from a copy in the library of G. W. Napier, Esq., of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, bearing the contemporary autograph of "John Townshend":—

"FUNEBRIA: or Six Practical Discourses on Funeral Occasions, viz.:—

I. At the Funeral of the Rev. THOMAS CLOPTON, M.A., formerly Rector of *Christleton* [22nd November, 1716].

II. At the Funeral of Mrs. CLOPTON, the said Rector's Relict [22nd J ne, 1721].

III., IV., V. On occasion of the death of the Rev. PHILIP EGERTON, D.D., the late Rector of *Astbury* and *Christleton* [21st February, 1726-7].

VI. At the funeral of Mrs. LEDSHAM; preached at St. John Baptist's Church, in Chester [22nd May, 1726].

By JOHN THOMAS, M.A., Curate of Christleton, and Minister of Ince. Published at the request of the Vestry.—*Parva funeris Esequia*. Propert. *Lib. ii. El. 12.—Cineri suprema ferebant*. Virg. *Æn. 6.—Docent Funeris Esequia*. Ovid.—London: Printed by HENRY WOODFALL, at Elsevir's Head, Without Temple Bar, and sold by Mrs. Page and Mr. Potter, Booksellers, in Chester, 1728."

The above volume is dedicated to his worthy and obliging friends, the inhabitants of the parish of Christleton. From this dedication it seems that the parishioners petitioned the Bishop for Mr. Thomas's continuance among them, and also waited upon Sir Roger Mostyn, the patron, on the same account. In the second Sermon on Dr. Egerton, the preacher calls the parishioners a well-disposed pious people (p. 119.)

Very little is said about Mr. Clopton, who was rector, according to Ormerod, (Old Ed., ii., 426,) from 1688 to 24th April, 1717, when Dr. Egerton was instituted. The preacher says that he might have said more of Mr. Clopton were it not for the aversion which he (Mr. C.) had to "harangues of this nature." He is, however, more profuse with Mrs. Clopton, who is described as of noted and distinguished extraction, descended from an ancient and honourable family of the county. Dr. Egerton, who was ancestor of the present family of Egerton and Oulton (Ormerod, ii., 427), is commended for his additions to the outbuildings of the Parsonage House of Christleton, and for his repairs to the church by setting up a new altar-piece, with plate and other ornaments.

The volume contains a lengthy list of local subscribers, amongst the clergy, &c. It is named in Watt's *Bib. Brit.*, but Christleton is misprinted Chorlton, and the blunder is of course copied by Allibone. The preacher, page 119, speaks of an eleven years' knowledge of the parish of Christleton. He would, perhaps, therefore, be John Thomas, of St. John's Coll., Camb., A.B., 1702, A.M. 1711. His name is worth adding to the new edition of Ormerod.

Stratford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[343] CORPORATE HONOURS AT A DISCOUNT.

In the present day, the honour of a seat in the Town Council is coveted by many a worthy and rising citizen; it is even said, indeed, that little fortunes have been spent by some who have achieved, as well as by others who have failed to reach, the senatorial position. In past days it was somewhat different. The old Corporation filled up vacancies from amongst their own friends, and occasionally there was found a man who was unwilling to accept the dubious honour. The TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS of the Chester Corporation, a century ago, afford two specimens of these self-immolating citizens. Fines were imposed and actually paid in the following instances, viz. :—

"1768. Feb. 25. By Samuel Hodson, a fine for not taking upon himself the office of a Common Council Man, £50.

"1769. Nov. 28. By Mr. Marsden, for not taking upon himself the office of an Alderman, £100.

So far as we can judge, in these present days there is little prospect of the City's Exchequer being often recruited by the fines of men averse to enter the Council,—experience seems rather to point, we think, in quite the other direction.

G. T.

[344] INSCRIBED STONE IN DELAMERE FOREST.

[CHESHIRE SHEAF, Nos. 103, 147.]

One of your correspondents calls attention to an ancient stone on the road to Wrexham. Now, some 60 years ago there was a stone at the side of the road on Delamere Forest, on one face of which were these words, "Turn me o'er, and I'll tell thee plain."—On turning the stone the following words were on the other side :—"Hot porridge will soak old crusts; turn me o'er again."—Is this stone still in existence?

B. OWEN.

[345] THE CHALONER FAMILY.

Mr. Williams, in his "Ancient and Modern Denbigh," says :—

"It appears from REYNOLDS' *Genealogies* that the Chaloners of Denbigh and Chester, so frequently mentioned in our records, were of Welsh origin, notwithstanding they bore a Norman surname.

"John Chaloner, son of Jacob Chaloner, son of Thomas Chaloner, of Chester, son of William Chaloner, son of Robert Chaloner, son of David Chaloner, son of Rees Chaloner, son of Richard Chaloner, son of William Chaloner, son of David Chaloner, son of Howell Chaloner, son of Madog Chaloner, son of Jerwerth Chaloner, son of Madog *Cwm de Chaloner in France*, son of Trahairn, son of Gwylm, son of Madog, son of Maelawg *Cwm*, Lord of Llechwedd Issa, and Nant Conwy, and one of the fifteen Tribes of North Wales, Anno Christi nati 1185."—*Chester Edit.* 1739, page 87.

There was a Thomas Chaloner, of Chester, living in the reign of Henry 6th, "in the 32nd year thereof," but so far as I know he did not pretend to be of Welsh origin. REYNOLDS is not esteemed as of much authority, but if we had a Cheshire family of the name "and of consequence," I should be glad if some of your correspondents would give some account of them. G. A.

[346] DUBLIN AND PARKGATE.

Some interest may perhaps attach to the following advertisement, copied from *Saunders' News Letter* for June 20th, 1798 :—

"The following is a list of Passage Boats that sail between Dublin and Parkgate, viz. :—

'Princess Royal,' brig, Capt. Brown.

'Prince of Wales,' cutter, Capt. Edwards.

'Dartmouth,' cutter, Capt. Connell.

'The King,' brig, Capt. Gormley.

'The Lady Fitzgibbon,' brig, Capt. Toole.

"Intelligence for the above Packets to be had at Rogers' Hotel, 85, Rogerson's Quay, Dublin."

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBSON, LL.D.

Queries.

[347] PENDRELL OR POWDERELL FAMILY.

It is said that the family of POWDERELL, for many years settled at Farndon, on the Dee, are an off-shoot of the loyal stock of the Pendrells, who assisted in the retreat and escape of King Charles the Second from the disastrous Battle of Worcester, and from the now historic Boecobel. Is there any tangible foundation for this claim set up for the Che-hire Powdrells, and what evidence can be produced in its support? It is stated, moreover, that King Charles granted a coat of arms to the family in recognition of the services done to him by the PENDRELLS. Do the Cheshire POWDERELLS claim or use the same coat? As I bear the latter family name, though for many years past living at the Antipodes, I may perhaps be excused for thus appealing for information in the columns of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

M. A. P.

Hanks Bay, New Zealand.

[348] BODWRDDA, CARNARVONSHIRE.

On a recent visit into North Wales I penetrated to the extreme south of the peninsula of Lleyrn. I called at and was permitted to inspect the ancient mansion of BODWRDDA, in the parish of Aberdaron; formerly the seat of a county family of the same name as the house, but now the property of Mr. Lloyd Edwards, of Nanboron, and occupied by a tenant farmer. In the inside is some fine old oak wainscoting. In one of the gables is a stone with the date 1621, and the initials . . . B. The first letter is very indistinct, but conjecturally, I should say it is H. Dated examples of old houses are always valuable. In another part of the county, GLODDAETH near Llandudno, and the PLAS MAWR at Conway, are good examples of the latter part of the preceding century. There are no coats of arms, I was told, at Bodwrdda.

B. H. BEEDHAM.

Ashfield House, Kimbolton.

[An interesting account of this house of BODWRDDA (as it is there spelt) will be found in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Vol. 4, pp. 208-10. A well executed copperplate engraving of the mansion accompanies the notice.—ED.]

[349] A ROYALIST FREE PASS, 1648.

During the CIVIL WAR, it was perilous to move about from place to place; for armed bands, Roundhead or Cavalier, lurked about in every lane and wood, and made frequent domiciliary visits to their enemies,—levying black mail, sometimes without reason, always without mercy. The possession of a SAFE CONDUCT or PASS therefore, from one or both of the great factions, was a something not to be lightly esteemed by its owner. These documents were probably by no means numerous; at any rate, few have survived to our own times. I have read that a Mr. Colley, of Eccleston, near Chester, had one granted to him early in the war, and that it is still in existence. Could not a copy of it be introduced into THE SHEAF, accompanied by some few particulars of this fortunate gentleman's family?

H. S. A.

[350] ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

In the chancel of Astbury Church, near Congleton, is a chapel or aisle belonging to the Moretons of Moreton Hall. In it, or in the chancel, were formerly two recumbent figures of Crusaders, members of the ancient family of Moreton. My cousin, Mrs. Moreton-Craigie, the present owner of Moreton Hall, has lived for many years abroad, and about twenty years ago she gave permission to the vicar to remove these monuments a few inches, so as to improve the chancel. They have, however, been removed not a few inches, but wholly and entirely, and cannot now be found. Can any of your readers say what has become of them?

Hampstead, N.W.

E. WALFORD, M.A.

Replies.

[351] FORTIFICATIONS OF CHESTER.

[No. 128.—July 3.]

I some twenty years ago bought, and still possess, the original copper plate from which the Plan given in Broster's *Siege of Chester* was printed,—the one in fact to which your correspondent T. T. refers. It has been employed to illustrate other Cheshire works since its first appearance in Broster's *Siege*. It would be interesting to discover and place upon record where the original sketch for this plan is now preserved.

When Prince Charles Edward advanced with his army into England from the North in 1745, great was the scare throughout the country lest "Geordie's" position on the throne should become untenable. Among the many garrisons of the country hastily put into a state of offence and defence, CHESTER CASTLE was of course neither the last nor least. George, Earl of Cholmondeley, Lord Lieutenant of the county, and at the same time Governor of the Castle, took prompt

steps for the repair of the decayed fortifications; raised to the ground the walls of St. Mary's Churchyard; took down nearly one half the tower of the church itself, lest the enemy, from the top of it, should gain command of the Castle; and pulled down several warehouses and other buildings in the neighbourhood.

In addition to all this, a plan was conceived by ALEXANDER DE LAVAUX, the officer of Engineers to whom I referred last week, under which the Castle was to be made still more secure from any possible attack. LAVAUX proposed to surround the existing fortress with a complete cordon of flankers and out-works, stretching out angle-wise in various directions; and it is probable that nothing but the sudden collapse of the Invasion prevented the scheme from being carried out.

The PLAN was engraved the same year under LAVAUX's directions; but only a few copies were printed off, of which one is in my own collection. It is on a large scale, almost as large as the same officer's Ground Plan of the City which has already been described in THE SHEAF by Mr. EARWAKER. This last-named Plate, I may add, is the first of its kind which gave anything like an accurate plan of the various streets, and of the sites of the principal houses therein, with the occupiers of each.

T. HUGHES.

[352] THE BRERETONS OF ASHLEY.

[Nos. 160, 224.—July 24, August 21.]

It is asked in No. 224 whether Sir JOHN BRERETON's personal estate went to Caius College, Cambridge, or Sidney College, in the same University. It was to the latter. The historian of the University has left the following account in his History of Sidney Sussex College:—

"Nor comes the bounty of Sir John Brereton much behinde him [viz., Sir Francis Clark]. He was as I may term him one of the *Aborigines* of the Colledge, one of the first *Scholars* of the House; and afterwards became His Majesties [James I.'s] *Sergeant* for the kingdome of Ireland. At his death he was not unmindfull of this his Mother, whom he bequeathed a large legacy, above two thousand pounds. Now whereas some *Benefactors* in repute are *Malefactors* in effect (giving to colledges *dupa adupa*, viz. such as burden and clog their donations, to maintain more than they are able (whereby their gifts become *suckers*, impairing the root of the Foundation), Sir John his gift was so left at large for the disposal thereof that it became a *gift indeed*, and really advanced the good of the Colledge."—*Hist. of Camb.* 1655, § viij., ¶ 28.

It thus appears that the more accurate statement is contained in Leycester's MSS. note in Mr. Hughes' copy. When the worthy knight, who was not a Cambridge man, made his correction in his 1673 tract against Mainwaring, he was thinking of John Brereton the traveller, who, under the countenance of the celebrated Rawleigh, explored Northern Virginia in 1602,

and who wrote an account of his adventures published the same year. In all probability this John Brereton was a Cheshire gentleman. He was matriculated as a sizar at Caius Coll., Camb., 23 June, 1587, and proceeded B.A. 1592-3.

It is worth noticing while on this matter that in the Journals of the House of Lords, vol. viij., p. 336, is an entry to clear Richard Brereton, of Ashley, in the county of Chester, of his delinquency, 28 May, 1646. I suppose this was the Richard who was buried at Bowdon, 14 Sept., 1649 (Leycester, p. 207, pt. iv.). In the "Catalogue of the Gentlemen, &c., who compounded for their Estates, Chester, 1733," his name appears for the sum of £600.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

[353] A WELSH PEARL IN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

[Nos. 185, 240, 294.—July 31, Aug. 28, Oct 2]

In Halliwell's *Excursions in North Wales*, there is at pp. 106-7, an extract from "a letter written from Nant Francon in the year 1690," containing the following account of a large Welsh Pearl:—

"As to the pearls found in these mountainous rivers, they are very plentiful, and commonly large; though few of them well coloured; they are found in a large black muscle, peculiar to such rivers. Several ladies of this County and Denbigh-shire have collections of good pearls, found chiefly in the river Conwy. One Mr. Wynne of Bodyskallen (a gentleman in several respects very curious and ingenious) hath a stool-pearle out of the river as big as the kernell of a field-berd, much of the colour of a common blew agat, but with two white circles: one at the basis (if I well remember), and the other about the midst of it. Common people call the muscle, wherein they are found, by a name signifying deluge shells: as if nature had not intended shells for the rivers, but being left there at the universall flood they had bred there, and so propagated their kinde ever since. They know whether a muscle have a pearle in it before they open it; for such as have it are allwayes contracted and somewhat distorted from their usuall shape."

The Mr. Wynne of Bodyskallen was probably directly related to Sir E. Wynne of Gwydir, the donor of the 'Royal' pearl to the Consort of Charles II., a few years only prior to the date of the above mentioned letter.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[354] CHESTER CATHEDRAL TAPESTRY.

[Nos. 186, 256.—July 31, Sept. 11.]

In a little book in my possession entitled, *The History of the Cathedral Church at Chester from its foundation to the present time* (London, MDCCXCIII), there is the following reference (at pp. 100 and 101) to the TAPESTRY in the Cathedral:—

"Wright, in his *Travels through France and Italy*, after mentioning the different pieces of tapestry in the Vatican at Rome, says: 'We have an altar piece in the Choir of Chester, after one of the same cartoons (it is that of Elymas the Sorcerer), which in my mind is much superior to any of these.'"

Southport.

P. M. HEFORD.

[355] HOUR GLASSES IN CHURCHES.

[No. 314. —October 16.]

Though not an answer to the enquiry of "SENEX,"—"Whether there are any of these remaining in the churches?"—it may interest some of your readers to mention that such time-meters appear to have been manufactured and sold wholesale in the early part of the 18th century; and it is a question, therefore, whether they were not used for other purposes, as well as to gauge the length of a sermon.

In a memorandum book in my possession, which appears to have belonged to a Chester tradesman—probably a Tylston—are the following entries:—

Jany. 23, 1722.

to Mrs. Clubbe for 18 hour glasses at 8s. 6d... 12 9

to Edward Pickfork for a Dos. of hour glasses 8 0

to 3 hour glasses at 16s. 1 Dos. hours at 7s.... 15 0

to Ed. Pickfork for $\frac{1}{2}$ Dos $\frac{1}{2}$ hour do. at 5s. $\frac{3}{4}$ 2 6

Feb. 1, 1722.

to Ed. Pickford for 3 2-hour glasses..... 3 6

We may hope that if a two-hour glass was ever used in the pulpit it would not require "reversing."

B. LL. V.

NOVEMBER 13, 1878.

Original Documents.

[356] CHESHIRE ARBITRATION CASE IN 1434.

At No. 104 of THE SHEAF, a correspondent asks for information as to the progenitors of JOHN BOSTOCK, Abbot of St. Albans; claiming that he was, if not actually born in this county, at all events of Cheshire descent. As some evidence of the truth of this assumption, we publish the following very interesting Cheshire AWARD, in which Abbot Bostock conspicuously figures, and in which his almost certainly own near relatives were personally concerned:—

"The endenture witnesseth that where John Kyngesley, Squyer, John Sergeant, William of Hutton, John the son of Rondulf of Wetenhale, Agnes yat is wif to John Hode, Thomas Walker, John Walker, John Litlore, John Keffes, and Hugh Broune on' yat on' partie; Adam of Bostock, Hugh of Bostock, brother of the said Ad'm, Hugh of Bostock of Hassall, Thomas Schagh, John Smalwode, Thomas

Badware, William Madok, Taillour, David Thacker, Henry the son of John Malyns, Hugh the son of, Thomas Malyns, Geoffrey Plymmer, Henry Merton, Richard Alvaston, Rondulf Daa, John Tong, Preat, Henry lowe, Philipp Sauge, John Venables, William Heryson, Hugh Baker, John Cotelar, & Rondulf Bostok on yat othu' p'tie; be putt in' yaward, ordin'noe, & Arbitriment of Vs, John, Abbot of ye monaste'ie of saint Alban. William Babyngton, knyght, chief Justice of oure souerain lord the king of his comune place, & of William Chaunterell, Sergeant of laws, of all man' Accions, causes, debates & querels personel', and of all man' Accoi of son Appell, or of may'm, hade monet or p'ohaset betwene the p'ties aforesaid, or any of hem, fro the begynnynge of the world vnto the viij. day of the mone of feuer' last passyd (Accions of dette alonly except and untaken.

"And we ye said Arbitrours haue herd ye chalanges & vnswares of ye said p'ties by gode delib'acion; & y'opon orde'n, deme'n & awarden in man' & fo'me y't sewyth. In ye first we orde'n, demen', & Awarden, by assent of ye said p'ties, y't ye said p'ties be ful frends. for all maner Accions, causes, debates & querels putte in oure award, And for din's trespasses & offenses done to ye said John Kyngesley, & to John Sergeant, & all oyr of ye felyship of ye said John Kyngesley, by Hugh of Bostock, brother vnto the said Ad'm and oyr p'sons of his felyship, We orde'n, deme'n, & Awarden yat ye said Ad'm paye to the said John Kyngesley & John Sergeant a C (100) marcs, yat is to wete, iiij marcs at ye fest of ye Natiuite of Saint John ye Baptiste next comyng, or w'tin a monyth yen next suyng, And iiij marcs at the fest of Saint Martyn' in ye wynter yen next suyng, or w'tin a monyth yen next suyng, & so yearly at en'ych of ye said festes, or w'tin a monyth next suyng affir ychon' of the said festes iiij marcs vnto ye said C marcs to ye said John Kyngesley, & to John Sergeant be fully payd & Satisfiet.

"for the whech paiementz truly to be hade & p'fourmyd, we award y't ye said Ad'm shall gete & fynd, betwene yis & Palme Sonday next comyng, vj sufficient p'sons, of ye whech en'y p'son shall haue, at ye tyme of ye Statut affir nemet taken, londes & ten'tes to the value of xij marcs by yere on' ye charges & reprises in fee simple or in fee taille w'tin the counte of Chestre; to be bounden by seu'all' Statutz m'rohantz, afore the maire of Chestre, yat is to say for eu'y day of paiement an Statut marchant, and en'ych of ye said vj p'sons y'in to be bounden on' in ye hooll. And yat ye said Adam orde'n & make ye said Sumes, yat shall be comp'hendet in ye said Statutz m'rohantz, truly to be payd to the said John Kyngesley & to John Sergeant in the man' fourmes & tymes aboue rehersyd. Also we award & orde'n yat ychon of ye said p'ties release ychon' til othir, as fer forth as lawe will suffre hem, all man' Suertees of ye peace yat yai haue hengyng betwene hem at ye day of ye making of yis Award. fforseen allway that the Award as fer all Accions, causes, debates, & querelles hade or moonet betwene the

said John Kyngesley & Thomas Schagh streche ne extende not, but only for all Accions, causes, debates and querelles comeysd & hade betwene the said John Kyngesley & Thomas Schagh sithen the tyme yat ye said Thomas Schagh came in to the Service of the said Adam Bostok.

"And yat yis Award shall truly be holden and p'fourmyd, the said John Kyngesley and Adam Bostok, aithir of hem for him self and for the p'sons nomet opon' his p'tie ben Sworne opon a boke in p'sence of Vs the said William Babyngton' and William Chaunterell. In Witnesse of ye whech thing, we ye said Arbitroures to these endentures haue sette oure Seales. Writen and made the xj day of fe'u'er in the yere of the reigne of Kyng Henry the vj'te after the conquest of Englund the xij'te."

We have given a complete transcript of the original vellum Record, which was obligingly confided to our charge for that purpose by a brother antiquary, Mr. R. C. Bostock, of London. It is a capital specimen of the English of the period.

EDITOR.

[357] THE CAUSEWAY AT CHESTER.

The following PETITION, which is dated April, 1647, the first year after the city had been taken by the Parliament, was addressed to the House of Lords, and is preserved among its records. (*Hist. MSS. Com.*; vi., 172) The MAYOR (not mentioned in the document), was Mr. WILLIAM EDWARDS. The owner of the mill property was the family of the GAMULLS.

"Petition of the Aldermen, Merchants, and Citizens of the City of Chester. The River Dee is choked up and made unnavigable by reason of the stone causey erected near the city, to serve the Dee Mills, which for many years has occasioned a great decay of trading, and frequent inundations on the Welsh side. The Commissioners of Sewers for these parts during King James's reign resolved that the causey should be demolished, but this resolution took no effect in regard of the power of those whose private interest in the mills was concerned. Petitioners pray that they might have an ordinance for taking down the causey and mills, and that the materials may be used for erecting tide mills for the service of the city."

Stretford.

J. E. BAILEY.

Notes.

[358] TOURISTS' RHYMES.

Many a matter of fact tourist, who at home perhaps affects to despise both poetry and poets,—when at a favourite spa, watering-place, or similar resort, finds the sacred afflatus so heavy upon him that he cannot resist

launching out spasmodically in rhyme. Evidences of this are afforded in the following extracts from the "Llangollen Album," transcribed from the original at the "King's Head," in 1824, by the late Mrs. Hughes, of Little Acton, near Wrexham:—

"Llangollen's Vale, King's Head, and River Dee,—
All that we eat, drink, listen to, and see—
Its woods, rocks, flowers, its rushing waterfall,
Inn, landlord, harper, waiter, boots, and all,
Are here the theme of such applauding lays
That nothing more seems left to me to praise;
Enough that they who make it their abode
Must own these eulogies are well bestow'd."

Another,

"Tho' most while here for brilliant skies would pray,
Yet who need grumble at a rainy day,
Whilst in these motley pages they may see
Such certain antidote against ennui?"

L. L.

[359] INSCRIPTION AT RHUDDLAN, FLINTSHIRE.

The following was copied by me from the original on a house at Rhuddlan some years ago:—

"This Fragment
Is the remains of the Building
Where King Edward the First
Held his Parliament

A.D.: 1283

In which was passed the Statute of Rhuddlan,
Securing
To the Principality of Wales
Its Judicial Rights
And Independence."

B. H. BEEDHAM.

[360] CHESTER CORN MARKET, 1724.

In gleaning for literary purposes of my own, I have picked up a stray ear—just a little mildewed with the damp of age, but still sound in the kernel, and therefore, I hope, worthy to be bound up in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

The prices current in the corn markets of Chester upwards of a century and a half ago, as quoted in the *Chester Weekly Journal*, of Thursday, February 27th, 1724, can scarcely be devoid of a grain of interest. They are as follow:—

"Prices of corn last Saturday in Chester—

Wheat from 4s. to 5s. per measure.

Rye from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.

Barley from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d.

Oats from 17 pence to 19 pence.

White Friars.

GEORGINA F. JACKSON.

Queries.

[361] THE TWO NORTHGATE BRIDGES, CHESTER.

In crossing the Canal at the Northgate I have often been puzzled to know why the smaller bridge on the left side of the roadway is left where it is. Is it part of

the old NORTHGATE GAOL, or a sort of right of the Charity Trustees, or other owners of property on either sides of the Canal? J. R. D.

[362] DEAN SWARTH.

The following is written on the back of an original letter from Elizabeth Henry (a daughter of Matthew Henry, the commentator) to a sister:—

"That when Dean Swarth went to waite on the Lord Cartwrigth(t), having staid some time, he left the following verses writt on an old card. The Lord wrote an answer:

The Dean's.

My very good Lord, 'tis a very hard task,
That I should thus wait who have nothing to ask.

My Lord.

My very good Dean, there are none that come here,
But have something to ask or something to fear."

Would the above be Bishop Cartwright, and who the Dean?

B. LL. V.

[363] THE MONASTERY OF ST. WERBURGH.

I have in my possession a thin 8vo. volume, formerly in the library of Bishop Law, entitled "The Monastery of St. Werburgh: A Poem, with Illustrative Notes. *** Quotations. *** MDCCCXXIII. 48pp." Sotheby, in a catalogue printed 1861, says—"This is a rare book, only a very few copies privately printed for circulation among the author's friends? Who was the author?

Southport.

PERCY M. HERFORD.

[364] THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.

Such is the title given by Cestrians to their Chief Magistrate. This mode of distinction does not appear to be used in any other city or town, and there must be some reason, good or bad, for its application here. It might be instructive, therefore, if some one of the many able contributors to THE SHEAF would explain how the MAYOR OF CHESTER comes to be "Right" Worshipful, when all others, except Lord Mayors, have to be content with "Worshipful" only.

Chester, Nov. 6, 1878.

W. F.

Replies.

[365] EDWARD BURGHALL, VICAR OF ACTON.

[No. 230.—August 28]

Your fair correspondent may perhaps be able to ascertain the place of Burghall's sepulture if she has the date of his death, viz., 8th December, 1665 (Calamy's *Cont.*, p. 171). The following memoranda from my notes on this Cheshire minister may be of interest to

your correspondents. He was a native of BUNBURY, where he was brought up under the influence of the two celebrated preachers, William Hinde and Samuel Torshell. Burghall notices Hinde's death on 19th June, 1629, in his *Diary*. Before the war he became Schoolmaster of Bunbury. About 1646 he became Vicar of Acton, where he remained sixteen years. In 1648 he signed the Attestation of the Ministers of Cheshire, calling himself Pastor of Acton. In 1650 he preached a Sermon at the dedication of the Free School of Acton, which was prefaced by Zachary Crofton, minister of Wrenbury; and he was also author of a discourse entitled *The Perfect Way to Die in Peace*. These discourses I have never seen. They are given in the modern editions of Calamy as one discourse (Ed. 1801., i. 324). On 15th February, 1652, Henry Newcome, then of Gawsworth, was introduced to Mr. Bingham (i. e. Burghall), of Acton, and was "greatly refreshed" with the acquaintance (*Autob.*, p. 35). In the *Bethlehem*, 1653, of Zachary Crofton before named, Burghall is mentioned as Minister of Acton (p. 228). From that benefice he was ejected in 1662, his farewell sermon being on 2 Cor., xiii. 11; on which occasion, as also subsequently, he was molested by the Quakers. At Acton he was succeeded by one Mr. Kirks. Of Burghall's celebrated *Diary*, called *Providence Improved*, Mr. EARWAKER, of Manchester, has a careful transcript from the original British Museum MS.; and it is to be hoped that, as the existing editions are very imperfect and inexact, he will consent to edit it for the new "Record Society." It begins Anne 1628, and ends with 1663. A note prefixed to Barlow's edition (p. 150) states that Burghall was author of John Bruen of Stapleford's Life, and married his sister; but the first part at least of that statement may be questioned.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[Mr. Bailey will perhaps on further thought agree with us that the Reprint of BURGHALL's *Providence Improved* is rather more fitted for the CHETHAM SOCIETY series, than for the newly instituted RECORD SOCIETY, which will probably confine itself to works of a more documentary character.—EDITOR.]

Your correspondent will find the grave of EDWARD BURGHALL, the Puritanical Vicar of Acton, at the east end of BUNBURY Churchyard. The stone is in excellent preservation. He was head master of the ALDERSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL (founded A.D. 1594) here, and became Vicar of ACTON, 1646. He died in reduced circumstances in 1665. His wife (JOAN), a sister of JOHN BRUEN, of Bruen Stapleford, in this county, died 1668, and was buried in the same grave. I enclose a copy of the inscription on the gravestone:—

"Here lyeth the Body of Master Edward Burghall, who was a painefull Schooll Mr. in this towne 22 yeares, and a godlye minister of Christ's Gospel at

Aston 15 years. Hee died in Alpram, Decem. 8.
An'o Dm'i 1665, et etatis sue 65.

Joan his Wife died Octo. 21, An'o Dm'i. 1668."

JAMES JONES.

The Oaklands, Bunbury.

[366] OLD OAK COFFIN AT ST. JOHN'S, CHESTER.
[No. 231.—August 28.]

The perambulating Chester Guides, a race not yet quite extinct, have from time to time made up many a foolish story about this solid Oak COFFIN for the delectation of their Lancashire dupes, who usually pay more court to that ghastly old shell than to the beautiful architectural Ruins and Church that adjoin it. One story is that it was the coffin of a monk who had murdered one of his brethren at St. John's, and at his own death was refused the ordinary Christian burial, whether within the church or beneath the green sod of the churchyard. Another is that a dignitary of the church was at his own request buried up there in a standing position, so that, when the last trumpet should sound, he might be ready at once to answer the call. Another is that a wicked old parishioner of past days was unable to rest in his grave, and that Satan himself had helped to place him in the lofty position the COFFIN now occupies, so that he might look down, in perpetual penance, on the fair world he had defiled by his sins. I have overheard during the last dozen years everyone of these stories recounted in sober earnest by Mr. GUIDE to his morbid listeners.

The real story of the Coffin is soon told. Forty years ago, when a boy at school, I remember old John Carter, the then sexton of the Cathedral, going with me at my request into ST. JOHN'S RUINS (at that time enveloped within a brick wall, and portion of the grounds of the old PRIORY HOUSE), to show me the relic and its then fresh-looking inscription. He assured me on the spot that his father, who was sexton of St. John's for a great number of years, had in his younger days come upon the COFFIN while digging a grave in a long disused part of the churchyard; and had, by the Rector's (Mr. Richardson's) orders, stuck it up in the recess where it still stands, so that it might be out of the way of passers by! Thus has a very matter of fact incident given rise in superstitious minds to no end of mystery. The date of the coffin is probably of the latter half of the 15th century; and the relic has this one element of real interest in it, that it is composed of a single block of oak, which has been hollowed out to receive the body.

G. T.

[367] CHESHIRE OAK TREES.
[No. 234.—Aug. 28.]

In answer to A WOODMAN, there is an enormous oak at MARTON—a small village four miles from Congleton, on the Wilmalow road. I believe it is the largest tree of its kind in England. A few years ago,

when I saw it, it had a circumference at the root of 58 feet; at a yard from the ground, 47 feet; and at five feet from it, of 42 feet; the girth of the largest limb, 11 feet 6 inches; and the diameter of the hollow inside, 5 feet.

Southport.

PERCY M. HERFORD.

[368] BISHOP MAJENDIE AND THE VOLUNTEERS.
[Nos. 280, 324.—Oct. 2, 23]

Perhaps the best Reply to VOLUNTEER'S Query will be the following narrative of events, compiled in the main from Hemingway's *History of Chester* :—

"On the 27th of July, 1803, a public meeting was held in the old Exchange, for the purpose of raising a Corps of VOLUNTEERS, and giving the citizens an opportunity of enrolling their names. The Hall was filled to excess, all ranks pressing forward to place themselves among the defenders of their country; and in the course of a few days, the CHESTER VOLUNTEERS numbered upwards of 1,300 effective men, who daily subjected themselves to a regular course of drill.

"On the 1st of September, Prince WILLIAM OF GLOUCESTER arrived in Chester. On the day following, the Freedom of the City was presented to His Highness, and on Sunday, the 4th, he inspected the Volunteers on the Roodeye, and accompanied them to the Cathedral, where the Bishop (Dr. MAJENDIE) preached a sermon.

"On the 21st the *London Gazette* contained the names of the officers.

"1804, Feb. 7. The VOLUNTEERS were inspected by Colonel Cuyler.

"1804, March 19. The COLOURS were presented to the CHESTER VOLUNTEERS by the lady of COLONEL BARNSTON, in the area fronting his house in Foregate-street. After the ceremony the regiment marched to the Cathedral, where the COLOURS were consecrated. From Church the corps proceeded about a mile on the Wrexham road to escort into the city two new beautiful brass field pieces (short sixes) cast at BRESHAM, near Wrexham.

"June 4 and 5. The CHESTER VOLUNTEERS marched to Oswestry and Ellesmere, on 28 days permanent duty.

"Oct. 1st. The Chester Volunteers reviewed by General Barton; after which they set off in 56 wagons through the city to Vicar's Cross, then through Littleton and Christleton to Foregate-street, with a view of ascertaining the facility with which they might be conveyed in case of invasion.

"Oct. 5. The Volunteers were reviewed by the DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, and his son, Prince William, on the Roodeye.

"May 15, 1805. The Chester Volunteers marched to Warrington for 21 days permanent duty.

"Dec. 15, 1807. Grand dinner given by Mr. (afterwards SIR JOHN) EGBERTON to the Officers of the Volunteers at OULTON.

"Nov., 1808. CHESTER LOCAL MILITIA established; its numbers, 1,223.

"Nov. 9, 1810. A piece of plate, valued at 150 guineas, holding about two gallons, presented by the officers of the LOCAL MILITIA to COLONEL BARNSTON.

"May 6, 1812. A strong detachment of the CHESTER LOCAL MILITIA, with their Rifle and Artillery companies (with field pieces, and a large supply of ammunition), marched to quell the Riots in and about STOCKPORT.

"Part of the MILITIA assembled on permanent duty in the city, during the trials of the Rioters by special commission."

This is the last notice I find, in Hemingway's *Chester*, of either VOLUNTEERS or LOCAL MILITIA. The COLOURS now at CREWE HILL, were brought there by my father, Roger Harry Barnston, either in 1838 or 1839. At the same time he removed also the two field pieces, afterwards returned to the present corps of VOLUNTEERS by Major William Barnston, my late brother. I believe "LOCAL MILITIA" is on the old COLOURS.

To this account I will add the following paragraph, taken from the *Chester Courant*, on the death of COLONEL BARNSTON in 1837:—

"He was for several years a Major, and then Lieut.-Colonel, of the ROYAL CHESHIRE MILITIA. When a VOLUNTEER CORPS was raised in this city, he was appointed Colonel, and, on the regiment being called upon to serve as a LOCAL MILITIA he continued to command it; which distinguished office he held until "war's alarms" ceased to render his services longer necessary."

This extract I think shows that the LOCAL MILITIA and VOLUNTEERS were in effect the same.

Brighton.

SELINA BARNSTON.

[369] NANTWICH BELLMAN.

[No. 333.—Oct. 23.]

This custom of inviting friends to a funeral by means of the town-crier's bell was not peculiar to Nantwich. In the will of the Rev. DUDLEY GARENCIERES, Prebendary of Chester Cathedral, proved June 1, 1703, (previously quoted from in No. 92 of THE SHEAF), he orders as follows:—

"Next, I surrender my Body to the Earth to be interr'd after this manner. I would have no other invitation to my funeral than by Notice given by the Clerk to the Parishioners of Hanley [Handley] and Waverton, and by the Belman to the People of Chester, of the time when, and the place where, my Corps is to be buried."

An earlier instance still can be quoted. In Queen Mary's reign an order went forth that the anniversary of her Father's death should be religiously observed. Accordingly, I find in the Treasurers' Books of the Dean and Chapter of Chester the following payments:—

"1556. The xxvij of January, at the Kyngs dyrges for Ryngyng, and to the bellman, and to poore folkeiij s. iiij d."

"1558. To ye belman for p'clamyng ye Fownder's dyrges, 27 Januarijiijd."

The "Fownder" here referred to is of course King Henry VIII., who created the Bishopric and Chapter of Chester in 1541.

T. HUGHES.

NOVEMBER 20, 1878.

Original Documents.

[870] A PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE IN 1610.

From the shoal of curious Letters, relating to the 16th and 17th centuries, discovered by Mr. J. C. JEAFFRESON among the muniments of Chester Town Hall, during his recent researches on behalf of the HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION, we select the undermentioned as especially worthy of notice. HUGH GLASEOUR, Esq., of the Lea, in Backford, who served the office of Mayor of Chester in 1602, and had the previous year been elected the city's Representative in Parliament, died in 1610, while still serving his fellow-citizens at St. Stephen's. A new Election thereupon became necessary, and it is clear from the context that there were two Richmonds in the field:—

"After my verie hartie Commendations. Whereas nowe after the death of Mr. Glaseour (that worthe gen', one of your burges' of Parliam't) You are to proceed to the elecc'on of another to supplie that roome. I have thoughte good to intimate vnto yo'w that, as alwaies hitherto I have pr'ferred in my best affec'on that Citie (wherein I first receaved life) before anie other place whatsoever, and have ever tended my indeavou'rs to pleasure en'y pertioular member thereof when anie of them desirid my assistance, and alsoe have not long since labored in the publick good of the whole Citie. Soe nowe maie I not omittle (opportunitie beinge offered) to make oblation vnto yow of my s'rvice to vndergo that place of Burgess'; wherein I confidently promise yow my best fidelitie, and to dispend my vttermost power for the Citie good, and that w'thout expectauncy of reward or fee; but meerey and freely will I attend the s'rvice at my owne Charge, besides my nere habitac'on and dwellinge to the Parliam't howse ministreth a greater Conveniency vnto me, and readines at hand, than to anie more remote. If therefore yow shall adiudge me worthe the place, and Committe vnto me the true'te required therein, I shall willingly imbrace it as a testimonie of you'r Loves, and (I hope) answers you'r expectations in discharge of it. Nor will I cease to Contend to go before anie other in Love to Yow all. And soe

referringe it wholly to you' good Censures, I com-
mitte yow to god's protection, and rest

"You'r verie Lovinge friend

"JO : BINGLEY.

"St. Steevens in Westm'r
this xvijth of August,
1610."

Endorsed

"To the right wor'p'll my verie Lovinge
friendes the Maior, Recorder, and
Aldermen of the Citie of Chester, and
to the rest of ye Cominalty of the
same Citie."

This earnest appeal to old friends and fellow citizens
at Chester proved of no avail to Mr. Bingley at that
particular election. Evidently he was somewhat behind-
hand in his application, for we find as below, that Chester
sent up as its burgess on this occasion Alderman
Kendrick ap Evan, innholder, who had served the office
of Sheriff of the city six years before, but who never
reached the mayoral chair.

In 1614, 12 James I., there was another General
Election, and this time the old city returned as its
representative Edward Whitby, Esq., the Recorder, and
JOHN BINGLEY, "merchant," the unsuccessful candidate
whose letter we have printed above, and who seems to
have retained his senatorial position until 1620.

The following extracts from the MS. List of Mayors
and Sheriffs in our possession, will be found to throw
much additional light on Mr. Bingley and his failure
on this, and his success on a future, occasion :—

"1609. The 6 July, Mr. HUGH GLASKEOR died at
London, where he attended as one of the Bur-
gesses in Parliament for this Cittye. The 13 July,
KENDRICK AP EVAN was chosen in his place."

It seems clear from this, that a month at least before
Mr. Bingley's letter was sent off the Citizens had fore-
stalled his application, and had filled up the vacancy.

"1613. Mr. Kendrick Evans, Alderman, died the
xvjth daye of August. Mr. Edward Keitchin,
merchant, chosen Alderman in his stead."

"1613-4. Upon Mondays, beinge the vijth March,
Mr. John Bingley, of London, who was borne in
this Cittye, and Mr. Edward Whitbye, Recorder
of this Cittye, were elected and chosen the two
Burgesses for this Cittye for the Parlam't; w'oh
Parlam't beganne at London the vth daye of April,
1614."

Hemingway (*Chester*, ii, p. 381) calls Bingley a mer-
chant; but he was admitted a Freeman of Chester in
1592 as simply "John Bingley," without any designation
being attached to his name. This, coupled with the
fact that he was resident at St. Stephen's, and wrote a
very clerklly hand, inclines us to believe that he was,
like his predecessor, Hugh Glaskeour (or Glasier), a
Westminster lawyer.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[371] DUBLIN AND CHESTER FLEET OF TRADERS.

List of vessels trading from Chester to Dublin, taken
from the Customs Record of the latter port, 1658 :—

"Annie, of Chester; master, Robt. Lorker.

Samuel, do.; master, Henry Pemberton.

Hopewell, do.; master, Wm. Ryder.

The Packett Boate, do.; master, Thos. Lowes.

The Providence, do.; master, Robt. Philpot.

*Elizabeth, do.; master, Richd. Johnson.

William, do.; master, Richd. Ball.

The Convert, do.; master, Richd. Ryding, associated
with J. Young.

The Farewell, do.; master, Geo. Eaton.

The Mary Rose, do.; master, James Ball.

The Charity, do.; master, Saml. Wright.

The Encrease, do.; master, Roger Wills.

The Guift, of Leighton; master, John Lownds.

The Blessing, of Mooson; master, Evan Jones.

The Mary (I suppose of Chester); master, Js. Ball,

The Lathdrum, of Mooson; master, John Browne.

The Providence, of Bumbrough (Bromborough?)
master, Ch. Davies.

* This vessel is also called in different entries the
Elizabeth, of Geiton, and of Geyton.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON, LL.D.

[372] CHAINED CHURCH BIBLES.

I fear, from the fact of a faculty having recently been
granted for the re-building of the present ugly and
dilapidated Church at BACKFORD, that a relic of past
times will be removed, and perhaps lost sight of for
ever. I refer to an old BIBLE (of, I think, the time of
Elizabeth) which is chained to a desk in the middle of
the present Church. As CHAINED BIBLES are now
very seldom met with, THE CHESHIRE SHEAF will, as
it seems to me, be the proper medium for recording this
and any other instances of their existence in this part
of the country. J. R. D.

[373] "ANCIENT MEOLS."

This is the title of a book by DR. HUME, of Liver-
pool, which appeared in 1863, and the object of which
is to give an account of the antiquities found at DOVE
POINT, on the west coast of Cheshire. I have possessed a
copy of the work for several years, and its subject
interested me so much that in September last I made a
pilgrimage to Dove Point, which is near the village of
GREAT MEOLS, not far from HOYLAK. The antiqui-
ties found about there have been so extremely nume-
rous that I had imagined it to be scarcely possible for
any one to visit the spot without seeing some for him-
self. In this I was not successful, for I saw nothing
which, clearly and beyond doubt, was the handiwork of
man. I ask some hints which may make a second visit
more fortunate.

Kimbolton.

B. H. BREDHAM.

[374] A CIVIL WAR MAYOR.

Among the scraps I met with during Mr. JEAFFERSON's official examination of the Corporation Records of Chester in September, 1878, was the Town Clerk's rough draft of the ELECTION OF MAYOR on the 24th of May, 1644 (20 Charles I.). There were three candidates nominated, between two of whom, Mr. THOMAS PARNELL and Mr. RANDLE HOLME, the struggle ran through two or three successive votings: ultimately the half-hearted Royalist, but afterwards republican Parnell was well beaten by the loyal to the backbone Randle Holme. Mr. Parnell was of Congleton extraction, and the poet Parnell, Archdeacon of Clogher, whose bones reposed in the old Church of the HOLY TRINITY, Chester, was of the same family. G. T.

[375] MOATS IN CHESHIRE.

At the S.W. angle (exterior) of the moat surrounding Old MORETON HALL was, some few years ago—probably is still—an earth mound about 20 feet high (I write from memory). There was also, in my recollection, though many years since removed, a precisely similar mound at the same angle (exterior) of the moat which once surrounded the original mansion of the VENABLES', Barons of Kinderton—Old KINDERTON HALL—the site of which is beyond the present comparatively modern farm-house called Kinderton Hall.

Can any of your readers assign the object or use of those mounds? B. LL. V.

Queries.

[376] BRIDGE HOUSE, CHESTER.

Few persons perhaps, citizens or strangers, walking up or down Lower Bridge-street, will have failed to note a tall square block of building on the west side between Grosvenor-street and Castle-street. The main entrance is upon the first floor, to which there is on either side a wide and handsome flight of steps. The best rooms are all wainscoted in oak; and the house as a whole, situated anywhere than where it is, would be a grand and attractive residence for even the best of our local families. What is known of the origin and first builder of the mansion; and can a list be given of the principal tenants who have during this and last century occupied the House?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[377] SAMUEL WARREN, Q.C.

It was stated, at the time of this gentleman's death, that he was born on the very border-line of Cheshire and Denbighshire. The name, however, is not Welsh, nor is it of at all common occurrence on this side of

Cheshire. I suspect therefore there must have been some error of locality in describing, as above, the place of his birth. Will some one who happens to know tell us exactly what are the facts? H. S. A.

[378] THE SILVER BASON I' CHESTER.

Can any of your contributors give me any information as to "the Silver Bason i' Chester," mentioned in "a rhyming account of the sights" of England, published by one Henry Peacham, in the year 1609? After citing very many, this old writer adds—

"Drake's ship at Detford, King
Richard's bed stead i' Leyster
The White Hall Whale bones, the
Silver Bason i' Chester."

A. C. L.

[379] SUTTONIAN METHOD OF INOCULATION.

On June 27, 1768, Mr. SUTTON, Surgeon, announces in *Adams' Chester Courant* that "he has now settled in this neighbourhood to practice Inoculation for the SMALL-POX, in conjunction with Mr. THOMAS, Surgeon, Hawarden." He states that "the great success that has hitherto attended the Suttonian Method of Inoculation renders it unnecessary to expatiate upon the utility of a practice so universally approved." What was the "Suttonian Method?" Mr. S. was not necessarily a quack because he advertised, for last century it was by no means unusual for medical men to adopt this means of becoming known. "Sawyer, late Nockemorf," adopts less respectable ways in this age of professional etiquette. Who was Mr. THOMAS? A. E.

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

Replies.

[380] BARROWE FAMILY OF CHESHIRE.

[Nos. 75, 120.—June 5, 26.]

The following translation of the original Latin record in the Mayor's Book of the City of Chester for the year 1496, may be of some service in illustrating the Barrow and Sneyd pedigrees. It seems to slightly qualify Mr. C. BRIDGER's Reply at No. 120:—

"Memorandum, that on the 19th day of January 12th Henry VII, ROBERT BAROWE, son of THOMAS BAROW, mercer, was by [the said] THOMAS BAROW, Mayor of Chester, admitted to the liberties and franchises of the said city, and gave for his fine xxvj s. viij d., that is to say, vj s. viij d. down, and the residue by vj s. viij d. annually at Michaelmas during the three years next coming."

"Memorandum, that the same day and year WILLIAM SNEDE, son of William Snede the elder, draper, was by the said Mayor admitted to the like liberties and franchises aforesaid, and paid

for his fine x d. ob. [10^d.], and one seed, [usually a pepper-corn] of ancient custom of the said city. Because the said William Snede, senior, father of the aforesaid William Snede the younger, at the time of the birth of the said William his son was free of the liberties of the same city. Provided always, that if the aforesaid WILLIAM SNEDE, junior, make his stay or residence beyond the said city for a year and a day, then the said Admission to be treated as null and void."

T. HUGHES.

[381] OLD PLANS OF CHESTER.

[No. 233.—Aug. 28.]

At the above reference Mr. J. P. EARWAKER calls attention to a large Plan of CHESTER, which could perhaps be identified if the engraver's name were given; and he suggests that other Plans should be similarly described in THE SHEAF. I possess a copy of perhaps the smallest Plan that was engraved, viz., one 5in. by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and it may be the oldest. It occurs in a book called *Britannia Magna*, by R. Hermannides, 12mo., published at Amsterdam, in 1661, a very useful work, containing, with descriptions, 32 pictorial plans, &c., of the cities of Great Britain, which were probably engraved on the Continent. It admirably illustrates the England of the Civil War. The Plan of Chester is noticeable because it contains some English names, *The Roode Eye*, *The Earle's Eye*, which, with the name "Cestria, Cester," and *Dee Fluvius*, are the only words on the plan. The city stands four square, "the four gates opening to the four winds." The gates, the walls, the Churches (of which the text states there were eighteen) and the buildings, are put into perspective. The East gate bears out Webb's description, that it was a "goodly great gate." The N.W. corner of the Walls contains the New Tower, named by the same authority, close to the channel of the river. On the meadows opposite the Roodee two fishermen are drying their nets; and another, on the Roodee itself, is employed in like manner. In about the same position on the Roodee as what is called on the 1817 plan the "Distance chair," there is a Cross on a round set of steps. To the north of the North Wall reapers are gathering corn, and the meadows on the north east and on the Earle's Eye contain cattle. In the lower right hand corner are the Arms of Chester, marked for blazoning; but, curiously though, the charges are reversed, the dimidiated garbs occupying the dexter or left hand side, and the lions the sinister. Within the walls of the city the most noticeable feature is the abundance of gardens.

Amongst Sir Peter Leycester's MSS. are two documents of great interest to the local topographer, which have been thus described by Mr. Horwood:—"All the streets and lanes of the city, with their names, in the time of Edward III.; and all the wards of the city viewed and set forth by the worthy Mr. Henry Gee, May, 1553 (Mayor that year)."

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[382]

RUSHBEARING.

[Nos. 246, 278.—Sept. 4, 25.]

The correspondents who have hitherto treated this subject in THE SHEAF have avoided one portion of W. M. B.'s query, viz., the antiquity of the custom in our county. To this point, therefore, we propose to address a few observations.

Our earliest parish records in Cheshire do not go back beyond, say, 1541, the year of the Reformation. It is almost hopeless, therefore, to seek for traces of any local customs of this class prior to that date. But whatever practices we find existing then, there is good reason for believing had been of long previous continuance.

The first notices we have met with are in the Treasurers' Accounts of CHESTER CATHEDRAL, and we give a few as samples of what are of annual occurrence down to the close of the 16th century:—

"1546. For ryashes in festo Pasceiiijd.
 „ For ryngyng at Esterviijd.
 „ For ryashes at Wytsontydvj d.
 „ ————— Mydsomerviij d.
 1551. For rushys in festo omni' sanctor'vj d.
 1552. For rashes against All Hallowtyde...xd.
 „ For ryngyng on All Hallow's nyght, xvjd.

These entries are in every instance associated with charges for ringing the Cathedral Bells.

A generation further on we come upon an entry of more than usual significance; significant in the last degree to the Dean and Chapter themselves, for it was to them the precursor of rapine and semi-ruin, inasmuch as it ended in the loss of much of their capitular property. It runs thus:—

"1584. To Edward Griffith for boughes, rishes, and other things, at what time the Earle of Leicester came hitherxvijs. ijd.
 In reference to this event, Smith in the *Vale Royal* says:—

"This year, the Earles of Darby and Leicester were received into Chester, and lodged at the Bishop's Pallace very honourably."

It would have been a good thing for the Chapter of Chester if Robert Earl of Leicester had never been born: it is impossible indeed to reprobate too severely his unprincipled conduct; for while accepting their hospitality and confidence with one hand, he mercilessly robbed them and their successors with the other.

One other quotation shall suffice,—this time from an early MS. local Chronology in our possession. The original leaf is imperfect at this spot, and we are therefore unable either to fully give or explain the words, which run as follow:—

"1606. A Rishie berryng set . . . St. Bride's, Mr. Robt. Amery. . . ."

This is the very earliest local instance we are aware of of the actual term "rush-berryng," and it is a great pity the record should have survived to us in so incomplete a form.

EDITOR.

[383] WARD FAMILY OF CONGLETON.

[No. 299.—Oct. 9.]

Your correspondent H.S.A., in sending you the interesting note about a "Mrs. Margaret Ward, of Congleton," would have done well to have omitted the last paragraph, in which he seeks to identify her with the Capesthorpe family, and presumes she may have been "mother of the John Ward, of Capesthorpe, who sold that estate to his distant relative, John Ward, of Monksheath, in the reign of Elizabeth." The John Ward, of Capesthorpe, who sold his estate to his namesake, was not born till 1607, and the sale did not take place till 1641. His grandmother was named ELIZABETH, and was the daughter of Robert Tatton, of Wythenshawe, Esq., her marriage taking place at Northenden, 31 Dec., 1570. The Tattons were strong anti-Catholics, and it is not likely that they would ally themselves with a Catholic family, as the Wards must have been if your correspondent's assumption is sound. There were many families of the Wards living near Congleton at this date—to one of which this Mrs. Margaret Ward may have belonged—if, indeed, the Bishop of Tarrason's statement is to be accepted as correct. One would like to know on what authority it is based.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington.

[384] FRODSHAM CHURCH PULPIT.

[No. 340.—Nov. 6.]

I have all the principal entries in all the Wardens Books at Frodsham, copied out by me during many visits to that neighbourhood in days gone by. I readily found the following note relating to the PULPIT in the accounts for 1665.

"Spent upon the joyners and other workmen when they removed and sett upp againe the pulpit, o_____00: 01: 04."

Edward Savage, of Frodsham, and Mr. John Dutton, sen'r, of Kingsley, gent., being then Wardens.

New Southgate, Middlesex.

T. HELSBY.

NOVEMBER 27, 1878.

Original Documents.

[385] CHESTER AND THE IRISH WAR.

During the Irish insurrection rampant in Elizabeth's reign, Chester was geographically one of the most important cities in the kingdom; and to accept the mayoralty of the place, at that period, was to face a worry and responsibility of which our modern mayors have most of them very little notion. Communications of the highest import to the State were continually passing between the Mayor and the Privy Council; soldiers were being sent, almost every week, to the city

to be victualled, lodged, and sometimes equipped, by the local authorities, who had often enough to do to keep the unruly levies in order. Shipping had to be provided also for their passage to Ireland, and as the wind was not unfrequently contrary for a month at a time, precautions against riot and misconduct had to be rigidly enforced by the chief magistrate.

It will be readily understood therefore that the recent examination by Mr. JEAFFERSON (on behalf of the Historical Commissioners) of the CORPORATION RECORDS, has revealed numbers of Letters and State Papers of this period of great historic interest, many of which had never been consulted since they were first rolled up and stowed away by the Town Clerk of that day. Here is one of the many we shall hope from time to time to print for the readers of THE SHEAF. It tells of the recruiting that had gone on in the country, and of the men, treasure, and material that had been consigned to Chester in 1598 (as was the case often enough before and since) for transmission to Ireland, when the Spaniards made their insolent but fruitless descent upon the sister isle. We quote, of course, from the Mayor's draft, which is unsigned:—

"Right Ho: My humble Dutie vnto yo'r lo: moete humblye remembred. May it please the same to be remembred, That lyke as before I adu'tized yo'r ho: of the Arryvall heere of 900 souldiers, p'cell of the 1000 men appoynted hither for Ireland by yo'r llo': dyrection, and of the Dep'ture hence over into Ireland of 600 of them, and that 300 out of the Welshe shieres, p'cell of the number of 400 thence appoynted, vnder the Conduco'on of Captaine Skipwith, were here ready alsoe; and that the Captaine, because the 100 men leyed in the County of Carn'von were not then Come, would not send away the rest. Soe doe I nowe adu'tyze yo'r Lo: that the said 100 out of Carn'vonshere are latelie Come hither; who, with the other 300 men, in all 400, are as yet remaining heere vnder the Conduction of the said Captaine, for want of Wynde, to her Ma'ts great Charge. Albeit, yf the Captaine would haue bene p'swaded by me, the said 300 men had bene in Ireland with the reste, but I Could not prevayle w'th him therein.

"The Charges in Dyet by Sea and Land of the said 1000 men is great, and f'eight for their transportation alsoe is expected; wherefore I humbly beseeche yo'r ho: to vouchsafe to geue speedy dyrection, that some imprest of money may be hither sent towards the diffraing of the said Charges; and that yf it might stand w'th yo'r Lo: good pleasure, that the same might be had for more readynes out of her Ma'ts treasure now come hither for Ireland. Thus praying god to pres'rve yo'r lo:, to Whose blessed tuic'on Doe the same moete humblye Comitt

Yor lo: moete bounden

[RICHARD RATHBORNE],

Mayor.

"Chester, of July the xxixth, 1598.

"Directed To the right ho: the lo: Burgley, lo: highe Thr'er of England."

The "Captaine Skipwith" above referred to was HENRY, third son and ultimately heir of Sir Richard Skipwith, Knight, of Beniworth, co. Lincoln. In Aubrey's *Memoirs*, it is said he "took to arms in his youth, and rendered himself famous by many great and glorious actions." On his monument, formerly in Lambeth Church, it was recorded that, "bred in the Netherlands under Lord Willoughby, he afterwards went Captain into Ireland, at the siege of Blackwater, and at the siege of Kinsale, where he slew a Spanish commander hand to hand. Elizabeth made him Constable of Castle Purque near Kinsale, which castle he erected at her command; and "having sundry times modestly refused the order of Knighthood, being one of the "oldest captains of his time," died March 7, 1630. For these particulars we are indebted to a family record and pedigree in the possession of Mr. Archibald P. Skipwith, of Chester and Bagillt. EDITOR.

Notes.

[386] PILGRIMAGES TO HOLYWELL, FLINTSHIRE, IN 1623.

In a very bitter controversial work, which created an immense sensation in its day, entitled, *The Foot out of the Snare*, 1624, 4th ed., 4to., the Author, JOHN GEE (who at one time was Curate of Newton, near Winwick), makes an allusion to the story of SAINT WINIFRED, of whom it had been reported that her head, once cut off, sprung and grew on again; but that being lopt off a second time, where it fell there arose "a fine siluer streame, or a pleasant Fountain of running water, which at this day (as they vaunt) cureth the Diseased; and the drops of bloud which Saint Winifred there lost are yet to be seen."

To connect such stories with the springs of our country was natural to a people which instinctively venerated the mysterious risings or flowings of water. Such a feeling suggested to the monks of *Fountains Abbey* the punning motto of their community, in allusion to the water near its site, *Benedicite fontes Domino—O ye springs, bless ye the Lord!* To attribute remedial efficacy to such springs and wells was easy. The renowned well of ST. WINIFRED early acquired fame on that account. The worthy and learned Lady Margaret, mother of Henry VII., and other members of the Lancashire family of Stanley, patronised it, the former being said to have erected the pretty Gothic building over it, adjoining the old CHAPEL OF ST. WINIFRED. Much of the veneration for the place disappeared with the Reformation. In the days of Queen Mary the visits of pilgrims were continued on a large scale through the action of GOLDWELL, Bishop of ST. ASAPH, who induced the Pope to renew the indulgences granted to pilgrims.

In the passage to be cited from GEE's book some very interesting particulars are given of the pilgrimages of his day. It would have been interesting if he had added the particular day or days of Midsummer sacred to these visits. St. Winifred's Day is the 3rd of November. Taylor, the water-poet, visited the Well in 1652. It was visited by James II. in 1688. In more modern times Pennant speaks of the decline in the number of pilgrims, the greater number of whom, he very noticeably states, came from Lancashire. Fitful revivals of the ancient veneration have occurred in still more recent times. GEE thus writes:—

"The place of this beheading, and where the miracle is more extant, is at *Hollicel in Wales*, not many miles off the City of *Chester*: whither once every year, about *Midsummer*, many superstitious *Papists of Lancashire, Staffordshire*, and other more remote Countries [Counties], go in *Pilgrimage*, especially those of the feminine or softer sex, who keep there their *Rendezous*, meeting with *divers Priests* their acquaintance; who make it their chief *Synod or Convention for Consultation*, and *promoting the Catholique Cause*, as they call it; yea, and account it their chiefest *haruest for commodity and profit*, in regard of the crop they then reap by *Absolutions and Indulgences*. Let mee add that they were so bold, about *Midsummer* the last yeere, 1623, that they intruded themselves *divers times* into the Church or publick *Chappell of Holliwell*, and there said *Masse* without contradiction. It is not vnlike they will easily presume to the same liberty heer in *England*, which they have used of late in *Ireland*; where they disturbed the minister at a *Funerall*, erected one or two *Frieries*, with open profession, in their *Monasticall habits*, and have intruded *titular Bishops*, to supplant the Church-gouernment there in force: as we see in like manner old M. *Bishop*, sometimes Prisoner in the *Gatehouse*, now perking vp and slanting with the vain, aeriell, fantastick bubble of an *Episcopall Title*, far-fetched, and yet lightly given, hath rambled vp and down *Staffordshire, Buckinghamshire*, and other places, vnder the name of the *Bishop of Chalcedon*, catching the ignorant, vulgar, and denoted *Romanists*, with the pomp of his pontificall Attire, & that empty name of a *Bishoprick*: whereunto he hath as much right as he hath Lands there." Pp. 38-9.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[387] STORM ON THE WIRRAL COAST IN 1757.

Adams's *Weekly Courant* (afterwards and still known as the *Chester Courant*) records as follows, under date January 25, 1757:—

"Last Tuesday evening the Ship *Cunliffe*, Capt. Matthews, from Virginia, laden with 366 Hogsheads of Tobacco, &c., was put on shore on Mook Beggar Wharf, wind southerly. The morning after, they got her on float in 13 Fathom Water, the wind having blown out to N.N.W., and blew a violent Storm; which obliged them to cut away both Cables, and run her on the Main opposite Wallasey Church.

Wednesday morning she had six feet of Water in her Hold, but they had some hopes of her not breaking up. The Crew are all sav'd."

"The same Night a Sloop, laden with Oysters for Liverpool Market, and which had on board several live Hogs, one of which weighed upwards of 400lb., was lost on the Back of Hoyle Sand, near Parkgate. The Crew are all sav'd.

T. T.

Queries.

[388] MODERN MONUMENTAL BRASS.

On a recent visit to GRAPPENHALL, a village $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Warrington (but in Cheshire), I saw inside the church of that village a BRASS, recently placed to the memory of an old warrior, probably a native of this county. I give the inscription:—

"In memory of Sir Thomas Danyers, of Bradley within Appleton, Knt: who died A.D. MCCCLIV. [1354]. He was present at the Battle of Cresey, the 25th day of May, 1346, and there rescued the Standard of Edward the Black Prince from the hands of the Enemy, and made prisoner the Comte de Tankerville, Chamberlain to the French King. To preserve the memory of so gallant a soldier this monument was placed here, A.D. 1876."

Is there any further account of this gentleman and his descendants? By whom, and under what circumstances was the monument erected?

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

[389] THE "PRUDENT BOKE" OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

In the Sale CATALOGUE of the valuable Libraries of the Rev. CHARLES PRESCOT, B.D., Rector of Stockport; the Rev. KENRICK PRESCOT, D.D., Master of Catharine Hall, Cambridge; and HENRY PRESCOT, Esq., Registrar of the Diocese of CHESTER in 1680, which were sold at the Rectory, STOCKPORT, in 1823, is the following lot:—

"A prudent boke for the CATHEDRALL Church of Christe and blessed Mary the Virgin in CHESTER,—made in London in XVIII. year of the reigns of our Soverayne Lady Queen Elizabeth."

There is no mention of this being in MS., so that it may have been a printed book. Is anything recorded of such a volume, or is a copy known to be preserved anywhere?

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[390] NOTES ON PRINTING AT CHESTER.—No. 1.

According to Archdeacon Cotton's *Typographical Gazetteer*, first series, there was a printer at Chester in 1656; but unfortunately the venerable author of that

work gives only the bare date, with no authority for the statement, nor any note of the printer's name, or of the book printed. At the time stated, and for many years afterwards, the existence of a press at Chester would have been in direct contravention of the laws of this country for the regulation of printing; and therefore, supposing the ancient city to have possessed a press it must have been a secret one, or what would then be termed a "Press in a hole." Can any gentleman versed in the antiquities of Chester throw further light on the subject?

Oxford.

W. H. ALLNUTT.

Replies.

[391] CHESHIRE OAK TREES.

[No. 284.—Aug. 28.]

At the time the late Lord Vernon sold the KINDERTON Estate (1857), there were growing on land a little N.E. of Kinderton Lodge two patriarchal OAKS, to which a special interest attached, inasmuch as there is strong presumptive evidence of their age. They were fallen by the late Mr. FRANCE soon after he purchased that part of the estate—the largest of which contained when fallen and barked, 323 cubic feet of timber.

It appears from the report of the "Records of the Palatinate of Chester," (part I., p. 417), that in the reign of Edward III., SIR HUGH DE VENABLE, Kt., the then Baron, obtained a grant (12th January, 1354/5) of Free Warren "for himself and his heirs in the demesnes of his manors of Kinderton, Sprouston, Mershton (Marston), Witton, and Eccleston; and those of the manor of Bradwall, which Philip de Eggerton and Matilda his wife held for life of the same Matilda of the inheritance of the said Hugh, with licences to inclose and *impark his wood of Kynderton*." There is little doubt, I think, that these two trees were remnants of the wood then imparked. Several of the fields near are still called "Park," and the original Lodge was the Park keeper's. Such is the tradition. Assuming the trees in question to have been of the wood enclosed in 1354, and the trees of the wood then timber or approaching it, the two trees would be at least 600 years old. The land they grew upon is strong clay.

B. LL. V.

[392] JOHN PHILLIPS, OF KINGSLEY.

[No. 285.—Oct. 2.]

I have quite accidentally met with the information I asked for in THE SHEAF a few weeks ago. From *Historical Sketches of Nonconformity in Cheshire* (Manchester, 1864), I learn that John Phillips was "ordained" as minister of the General Baptist Chapel, Kingsley, in 1738, and died there January 11th, 1761,

after a ministry of 23 years. I do not find any mention of Phillips' friend and patron, the Rev. Dr. Obadiah Hughes.

P. M. HERFORD.

Southport, Co. Lancaster.

[393] ARMS IN TRINITY CHURCH, CHESTER.

[No. 322—Oct. 23.]

The only fragments of old stained glass I ever recollect, in Holy Trinity Church, prior to the rebuilding in 1865-6, were not in the east but in the south-west window, and are I fear no longer in existence.

Elias Ashmole, the distinguished antiquary, who visited the city in 1663, and took notes of the monuments and heraldic glass, makes no reference to the particular coat described by Sandford in 1677: he says, however,—

"In the East window of the Chancel is the E. of Derby's Arms within a Garter, wth ten other Quarterings and Supporters."

Possibly these royal arms of Edward IV. may have been included in the heraldic achievement of the Stanleys: certainly, since but fourteen years separated the visits of the two great antiquaries to the city, they must both have looked upon the same stained glass in our Church of the Holy Trinity.

G. T.

[394] A ROYALIST PASS, 1643.

[No. 349.—Nov. 6.]

H. S. A. will find a scrap or two of information about the COLLEY family here and there in Parts 8 and 9 of the new edition of Ormerod. The Colleys were very ancient gentry of small estate in Cheshire, and, *inter alia*, in the Wirral Hundred. I have a suspicion that the Colley - Wellesleys (WELLINGTON) descended probably from a Cheshire-Irish settler of this name, although Cowley seems to have been the first form met with in the Irish Records. The Cheshire family spelt the name indifferently both ways.

S. S.

As I possess the interesting family document connected with the momentous civil war, to which your correspondent H. S. A. alludes, I gladly send a copy of it for publication in THE SHEAF. It has, however, already been printed in the *Journal* of the CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. 2, pp. 397-8; and the family is incidentally referred to elsewhere in the same Transactions:—

"ARTHUR, LORD CAPELL, Lieutenant General to the Prince his highness of all his Ma[']ties forces in the Countyes of Worcester, Salop, and Chester, and the Six Border Countyes of Wales. To all Commanders, Officers and Souldiers under my command, and to all other his Ma[']ties Officers and Lousing Subjects whom these presents may concerne. By vertue of his Majesties Commission under the great Seale of England to mee directed, & as Lieutenant General of the forces aforesaid, I doe hereby strictly Charge and Command you and

every of you, not to dee nor willingly permit or suffer to bee done any hurt, vyelence, damage, plunder, or detriment whatsoever unto the person, house, family, goods, chattells, or estate of WILLIAM COLLEY, of Eccleston, in the Countie of Cheshire, gentleman. And I further Command that you redeliver this my protection unto such p[']son or p[']sons as shall show it unto you, when & as often as there shal bee occasion to produce the same. Hereof you are not to fail, as you will answers the Contrary at your utmost p[']ll. Given under my hand and seale the first day of December, A[']o. 1643.

"ARTHUR CAPELL."

Mr. WILLIAM COLLEY, of Eccleston, to whom this paper refers, belonged to a family long resident in this county. In the early accounts of our Cathedral (before indeed Chester became a bishopric), contained in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, the name occurs several times; and in Booth's Pedigrees of Families of the County, a family of this name is shortly described as residents in Malpas Parish. Thomas Colley, of the Hall, Wigland, is said to have married Alice, second daughter of John Taylor, of Castleton, and to have had four sons and one daughter. Thomas died without issue; Richard, groom of the Privy Chamber to King Edward VI., died childless; Humphrey, also in the service of King Edward VI., afterwards retired to Ware, in Herts, and married, leaving a son Richard; William was Groom of the Chamber to Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards lived at Ebnow (now Ebnall) in the parish of Malpas. He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Bird, of Ewlough, co. Flint, and left a son Randle, who married Jane Kerrison, of Wichaulgh, and who is also referred to by Mr. W. COLLEY, of Eccleston (afterwards to be named) as his "cousin." The arms are described as below, being those borne by the family at the present time, viz., "sable, within a border, or, three swans' heads erased, argent." Crest, "an elephant's head gules, between two wings sable."

In Vol. 51, *Chetham Society's Papers*, in the will of Richard Grosvenor, Esq., of Dodlestone, 22 Elizabeth, the testator makes mention of Sir William Cowley, the rector, in his pecuniary bequests, and the same will is attested by "William Colley, clericus." At a later period we find a WILLIAM COLLEY living at Eccleston, as did his family for nearly 100 years. He was the land agent, apparently, to the Grosvenor family at Eaton; and was married at Eccleston, in 1606, to Anne Frodsham, who is described as "generosa." This Mr. Colley, presumed to be the one referred to in the Pass, purchased CHURTON HEATH estate, still held by the family, and removed from Eccleston; though other members of the family continued for nearly a century to live there, and were buried in the church. His son, Jonathan Colley, became Rector of Pulford; and William Colley, the Puritan Incumbent of Churton Heath, appears, according to Ormerod, to be his son. It is notable that the said Wm. Colley conformed at

the time of the passing of the Act of Uniformity, owing, according to Calamy, to the mild interpretation of that Act by Bishop Wilkins.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

SIR PETER LEYCESTER, the Cheshire antiquary, as I learn from a recent biography of him compiled by Mr. J. E. BAILEY, of Stretford, was by the Parliament granted a similar Passport or Safe-conduct, under the hand of General Fairfax. It was dated 24 June, 1646, and included the right to transport himself, with his servants and goods, beyond the seas. It was, however, a happy thing for later Cheshire historians that Sir Peter (then plain Peter Leycester, Esquire) preferred to wait the issue of events, and to remain in his native county in pursuit of his favourite hobby.

I picked up the following scrap, the other day, among some papers discovered by Mr. JEAFFERSON, during his official examination of the City Muniments. It is interesting as not only shewing the early association of Mr. WILLIAM COLLEY with the House of Eaton, but as proving also that Pennant's account of the Leasing of the Halkin mines by the GROSVENORS, in 1629, should be ante-dated by some eleven years.

The memorandum, which seems to be a sort of release from one of the law-courts at London, runs as follows:

"WILLIAM COLLEY, Servant vnto Mr. GRAVENOR, his Highnesses ffarmor of certaine ledd Mines in the County of Flint, is discharged from further Attendance concerning the p'miss', and dismissed by order of ye Table.

"26 feb. 1618.

HIERO: COCKE."

T. HUGHES.

DECEMBER 3, 1878.

Original Documents.

[395] SUSPECTED OF FELONY.

The following letter, addressed by SIR HENRY TOWNSEND, Knight, and Justice of Chester, to the Mayor of the city, shows how very near corruption our 16th century Judges sometimes sailed in the exercise of their prerogative and privilege. It reads very much like a suggestion that, if need were, the Mayor might strain a point in the prisoner's favour, and release him from prison, as he was so very well connected, and "descended from them that were worshipful and honest!"

Whether his worship held fast to his prisoner, or whether he listened to the voice of the judicial charmer, we know not; nor have we been able to discover to which branch of the Leigh family the incarcerate "Mr. Henry Leigh" belonged. Possibly the publication of the letter may bring some of these facts to light.

"after my very hartie comendac'ons. I vnderstand, that one mr. Henry leighe is deteyned a prisoner in yo'r Cytty for suspic'on of ffellony; and whether of mallice or otherwyse he is thus troubled I knowe not; but am assured that he is descended from them that are wor' and honest; and therefore at theire earnest request vnto me in his behaulfe made, I am to deasyre yow (if there be not iust cause of his stayeing in prison,) to take some course for his enlardgement if lawfullie he maye. He is (as I am enformed) nowe for Ireland, and his deteyning in prison thus longe hath greatly hyndered him; and if he doe continewe longer in prison, his weiff, Chyl dren, and famyley beinge now ready to goe over w'th him, he himseife and they, by reason of his imprisonment, are lyke to be vndon. Soe, wishinge yow to conseyder of his estate, and to shewe him that favoure, w'oh in Justice yow maye afford, I bydd yow hartilly forewell.

"Yo'r very ffrend,

"H. TOWNSEND."

"Newport this xvth
of August, 1611."
Endorsed

"To the Right wor' his very
Lounge ffrends the Maior
and Recorder of the Cytty
of Chester. "D. D."

SIR HENRY TOWNSEND was for forty-three years officially associated with the county, having been one of the Chief Justices of Chester from 1578 to 1621. His name frequently crops up in legal matters of that period, and he seems to have been an energetic and popular Judge.

EDITOR.

[396] BARBER SURGEONS, AND CHANDLERS' COMPANY, CHESTER.

This is among the most ancient, as it was originally one of the most influential, of all our city guilds. To the BARBERS, on the one hand, the citizens for the most part entrusted their lives during illness; and the WAX and TALLOW CHANDLERS, on the other, provided the tapers that were placed round their dead bodies, and that were carried in procession at their funerals.

I possess a careful and voluminous transcript of this Company's Minutes and Annual Accounts, dating from the year 1606, extracts from which I shall hope occasionally to place before the readers of THE SHEAF. To-day I shall merely submit as a specimen the under-mentioned memorandum, which is entitled to permanent record as a relic of the GREAT SIEGE.

"Memorandu', that the second day of July, 1646, beinge our election and Count [account] Day for the Companie of Barbers Chirurgeons, Wax and Tallow Chaundlers within the Cittle of Chester, Mr. Robt. Thorneley, Barber Chirurgeon, and Robert Shone, Tallow Chandler, were elected Aldermen; and John Looker, Tallow Chaundler, and John Throp, Barber, were chosen to be Stewar des and Searchers for one whole yeare from this second of July, 1646, untill

July, 1647. Mr. Charles Walley, p't May'or,—the Cittie this yeare being yielded upon conditions to the Parliament, and Mr. William Edwards made Mayor the next Michallmas after, and Mr. John Ratcliffe made Recorder, and both made burgesees for the p'liament. Mr. John Win, Ironmonger, and Mr. Richard Sproston, Drap', Sheriffs, 1646."

G. T.

Notes.

[397] ROMAN ALTAR FOUND AT GREAT BOUGHTON.

I recently came across the accompanying letter in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Nov., 1823 (p. 388). Perhaps you may think it worthy of preservation in a corner of THE SHEAF.

"Chester, Nov. 2.

"Mr. Urban,

"A Roman altar was found in March, 1821, in a garden or field called *The Daniels*, in Great Boughton, Chester, near the junction of the ancient Roman roads to Mancunium and Mediolanum. It was discovered in a bed of marl, intermixed with sand, in a reclining posture, detached from the pedestal, which was a square stone six inches thick. The whole was covered with a mass of stones and rubbish, probably the remains of a building in which the altar was at one period deposited. The field is on all sides surrounded by abundant springs of fine water; and the "Fountains, to which it was dedicated, probably burst forth their pellucid treasures in the immediate vicinity in which it was dug up. The height of the altar is 4 feet; the middle part of the column is 2 feet; the base and capital 2 feet 3 inches; the *thuribulum* is about an inch in depth, circular and nearly 8 inches in diameter. The inscription is—

NYMPHIS

ET

FONTIBUS

LEG. XX.

V. V.

which may be rendered, *The Twentieth Legion—the Mighty—the Victorious—to the Nymphs and Fountains.*

"If this altar was erected by the Legion when they first established a colony in Chester, it is 1778 years old; if on the eve of their quitting Britain, 1491 years;—taking a medium, this relic of Roman piety and gratitude may have been formed about 1670 years ago.

"Several Roman altars have been found in Chester. In 1653 an altar, dedicated to *Jupiter the Thunderer* by the 20th Legion, was discovered in Foregate-street, and is now amongst the Arundelian marbles at Oxford; in 1693, one erected by *Flavius Longinus*, of the 20th Legion, in Eastgate-street, in the possession of the Rev. C. Prescott, of Stockport;

and in 1779, one dedicated to *Esculapius*, now the property of Sir John Grey Egerton, of Oulton Park, Bart.

"The 20th Legion, of which for so long a period Chester was the principal station, was not composed of mercenary troops, but of citizens of Rome.

"The altar I am now particularly describing to you was purchased by our noble and magnificent neighbour, the Earl Grosvenor. It is deposited in a beautiful octagonal Gothic temple, erected purposely for its reception, on the south side of the sheet of water facing the east front of Eaton House, the splendid seat of the noble Earl. The house is about three miles south of this city, approached by a most romantic line of road, skirting the mazy wanderings of the Dee—"the holy river," as it was emphatically designated by our British ancestors. Immense additions are making to the House under the superintendence of Mr. Gummow, the able architect and builder, and in a few years the pleasure grounds will equal any in England, Mr. Forest having already made a paradise of a situation naturally low and marshy. I may possibly furnish you with some particulars of the style and works at Eaton House, the new wings to which are expected to be completed in the autumn of 1824.—Yours, &c.,

J. H. HANSHALL."

The writer of this letter was John Hickson Hanshall, Editor of the *Chester Chronicle*, and author of the *History of Cheshire*, in 4to., 1817, and the *Stranger in Chester*, 18mo., 1816, bearing his name.

Southport.

P. M. HEFORD.

[398] THE THREATENED INVASION IN 1803.

When it became known that Napoleon had prepared an army and a great flotilla for the avowed purpose of invading England, the country rose *en masse* in presence of the danger, and the "nation of shopkeepers" pressed forward, as one man, to become a nation of soldiers.

CHESHIRE, but especially CHESTER, caught the enthusiasm of the hour; and as it will surely interest our readers to learn, after seventy-five years' interval, how their grandaunts acquitted themselves at that momentous epoch, we shall occasionally devote a short space in THE SHEAF to a record of the story. We shall utilize for the purpose the papers of that day, and shall fittingly commence with the patriotic MEMORIAL addressed to the MAYOR by some of our prominent citizens, as it appeared in the *Courant*, of July 26th, 1803:—

"To the Right Worshipful Robert Hodgson, Esq., Mayor of the city of Chester.

"We, the undersigned, do request that you will convene a MEETING, as early as possible, of the Inhabitants of this ancient and loyal City, for the purpose of ADDRESSING HIS MAJESTY on this important crisis, and of forming an ARMED ASSOCIATION.

16th July, 1803.

Roger Barnston
Thomas Dixon
Joseph Wilmot
Samuel Freeman
William Nelson
James Okell
J. Irwin
Thomas Fluit
M. Taylor
W. M. Thackary
Charles Hamilton
John Drake

Charles Henchman
P. Humberston
Peploe Ward
William Nicholls
George French
Fra. Edge Barker
John Fluit
Robert Bowers
Edward Mainwaring
S. Humphries
Henry Bowers
John Cooper."

"In compliance with the above request, I appoint a Meeting for the above purpose to be held at the Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at twelve o'clock. Robert Hodgson, Mayor."

Of the signatures to the above Memorial it is unnecessary to say much here, as their names will meet of them re-appear in a military capacity as our narrative proceeds. They were, as will be seen, the ancestors of men yet amongst us who have served their country in the field, and who are still prominent in the city for their loyalty to the Throne and the institutions of Old England.

At the Mayor's summons, the *Chester Courant*, of August 2nd, proudly informs us that—

"On Wednesday last a MEETING was held at the TOWN HALL, in this city, for the purpose of addressing his Majesty at this awful and momentous period. It was numerously and respectably attended, and the ADDRESS was unanimously voted. After this part of the business was done, it was proposed, in conformity with the same, that an Armed Association, to consist of CAVALRY and INFANTRY, should be formed of the CITIZENS for the Defence of the realm. This was received with great acclamation, and more than one hundred and fifty names were subscribed in less than two hours. In consequence of the spirited Resolutions, and the Address made by the Committee appointed at the above Meeting, and printed and distributed by them the next morning, the numbers increased so as to exceed four hundred on that evening. On Friday morning the Committee again issued several papers, one of which called upon their Fellow Citizens to meet at the TOWN HALL, at six o'clock in the evening, in order to attend the procession of the Right Worshipful THE MAYOR and the principal inhabitants of the city to the ROODEE, where the Colours belonging to the VOLUNTEERS who served in the late war were to be planted; and the brave and loyal citizens of Chester were invited to repair to the Drum-head to enrol themselves. In the course of the morning several hundreds subscribed their names; and the Meeting at the Town Hall was more numerously attended than any ever held in this city in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The brave citizens seemed to vie with each other in marks of loyalty and attachment to the best of Kings and the happiest Constitution; and after unanimously fixing upon ROGER BARNSTON, Esq., for their Commanding Officer, they repaired to the

ABBAY COURT, where they formed themselves with great regularity, and marched thence to the Roodee, preceded by the Mayor and their worthy Commander, accompanied with the Colours, music, and drums. They then formed a circle, and the Colours were planted. In a short time upwards of 200 stepped forward in the defence of their country, which increased the number enrolled on that day alone to 560; and at the closing of the books on that evening the corps consisted of nearly one thousand men! On their return from the Roodee the MAYOR and COL. BARNSTON were placed in chairs, and carried to the house of the latter gentleman, and afterwards to the EXCHANGE, where they returned, in concise but animated speeches, their thanks for the honour conferred upon them."

EDITOR.

Queries.

[399] COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY.

I am desirous to ascertain the whereabouts of a picture of Colonel ROGER WHITLEY, whose connection with Cheshire and Flintshire in the Civil War period is matter of history. It is supposed that the portrait was sold, shortly after the death of the Rev. Charles S. Stanhope, Rector of Weaverham. If that be so, perhaps some reader of THE SHEAF may be able to say who was the purchaser?

Sidmouth, Devon.

C. A. S.

[400] ABSENCE OF MIND IN ARTISTS.

Most of your readers will know the well-known story of the foreign artist who painted a picture for the Myddeltons, of Chirk Castle, wherein a waterfall on the Ceiriog is depicted; and who upon being told that a few sheep introduced into it would add to its beauty, exclaimed "Sheeps, O! Sheeps!" forthwith put some frigates on the canvas, and so sent the work of art home to his patron. We have all laughed at the incident as a proof of the want of common knowledge on the part of the poor foreigner; but our own *Richard Wilson*, the celebrated Welsh landscape painter, has been guilty of a like mistake, and the fact is worth preserving. He painted one of *Tully's* villas for Mr. Hardinge, (the father of the well-known Welsh Judge of that name), and with a view of adding to the picturesqueness of the scene, he thoughtlessly introduced into the picture a *portrait of the orator and some of his friends*! An arch critic on seeing the picture suggested to Wilson that he should whiten their faces, and so convert them into *spirits*, but whether he did so or not is unrecorded. Chirk Castle being so near to us, and Wilson's pictures so well known, I should much like to know if any of your readers can verify these two local stories.

G. A.

[401] JOHN DOD THE DECALOGIST.

In the pedigree of the Dod family, of Shooklach, county Chester, given in the new edition of the great "History of Cheshire," vol. II, page 688, Mr. Helsby conjectures, and in another place (at page 612) states positively, that the celebrated John Dod, commonly styled the Decalogist from his Commentary on the Commandments, was not, as stated in the Biographies (cf. *Nonconformity in Cheshire*, pp. 102, 152) unole, but the younger brother of the Archdeacon, Thomas Dod, D.D., Rector of Astbury and Malpas.

Would my learned friend, Mr. Helsby, kindly give us in THE SHEAF his reasons for thus running counter to the statement of Chalmers, Rose, Ormerod, and Urwick? And if he has not the time, any additional information throwing light upon the point in question, which any of your correspondents can give would no doubt be very interesting to your readers generally.

Southport.

P. M. HERFORD.

[402] THE BEAR AND BILLET.

Your readers are most of them well acquainted with the fine old timber house at Chester, long used as an inn under the above title. Can you explain why the "Bear and Billet" was chosen as the sign? It is a crest of the Earls of Warwick, and was, I think, borne by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, whose brother was Earl of Warwick: but how came it to Chester?

E. P.

[403] SIR ROGER MOSTYN, BART.

SIR ROGER MOSTYN, 1st Baronet of Mostyn, co. Flint, is usually said to have died in 1726. He was created to the dignity Aug. 3, 1660, so that he must have held the honour sixty-six years. But the Baronetcy was conferred upon him for services rendered to the Royalists during the CIVIL WAR, the relief of the City of CHESTER being among such services. Assuming therefore that he was but 20 years of age at the period of the latter event, he must have been at least a century old at his decease. Is there not some error in the date of his demise? Sir Roger represented the county of Chester in the Parliament of 1702-5.

Leigh, Lancashire.

W. D. PINK.

Replies.

[404] A WELSH PEARL IN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

[Nos. 185, 240, 294, 383.—July 31, Aug. 28, Oct. 2, Nov. 7.]

I wish to amend my reply of Aug. 28. It was not the Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir, whose portrait was painted by Jansen and engraved by Bartolozzi, who

presented the PEARL to Catherine, Queen of Charles II., but his nephew, the second Sir Richard, who married a daughter of Sir Thomas Myddelton, of Chirk Castle. I have recently been told that a box containing a great number of Conwy pearls was in the possession of the last Sir R. W. Vaughan, Bart., of Nannau. One of them was given to Mr. W. W. Wynne, and is now at Peniarth.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[405] SALMON REFUSED BY APPRENTICES.

[No. 212.—Aug. 14.]

Would the following extract from a little book published by the late Mr. John Hicklin (formerly Editor of the *Chester Courant*), entitled, "*A Guide to Eaton Hall*," throw any light on the matter?—

"The Church of Eccleston is dedicated to St. Mary; and, according to Pennant, there was a fishery at Eaton at the time of the Conquest, which employed six fishermen, and yielded a thousand Salmon (query, in what period?); of which, during its existence,—for he adds, "it has long since ceased—the Rector of Eccleston claimed every twentieth fish. But although the fishery so denoted has ceased, there is yet much pleasant angling in this vicinity; and the commendable efforts now making by the River Dee Association, may, probably so far increase the take of Salmon, as to rival the plenty with which the tables of the ancient Rectors of Eccleston were supplied."

This is, of course, scarcely a satisfactory answer, but I will leave it to some one else to say, *where* the assertion is taken from that "Salmon was refused by Apprentices": the statement, however, has been over and over again repeated, though I cannot trace it to any reliable source.

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

[406] THE PLAGUE IN CHESTER, 1647.

[Nos. 279, 306.—Oct 1, 16.]

In the Minute Book of the COMPANY OF BARBER CHIRURGEONS of Chester, quoted from at No. 396 of the present week's SHEAF, is the following reference to that terrible visitation of the PLAGUE, which followed so immediately on the Surrender of the City after the SIEGE. After registering the annual Election of the Company's Officers, the clerk adds,

"July 2, 1647, being then the tyme of the Lords Dreadfull visitac'on of this Cittie of Chester; fro' w'oh, praysed be the God of heaven, who hath in mercy stayed his Judgment, and p'mitted a remnant to survive to give him praise this day."

Five Members of the Company out of the 24 died this year. One died the previous, and one the following year, and the average of deaths at and about that period was considerably less than one per annum.

G. T.

[407] INSCRIPTION AT RHUDDLAN, FLINTSHIRE.

[No. 859.—Nov. 13.]

The inscription copied by Mr. BEEDHAM is either given or referred to in nearly every Guide Book. The tablet was put up by the celebrated DEAN SHIPLEY, whose trial for libel forms so interesting an episode in the political history of FLINTSHIRE. By the way, modern historians question the truthfulness of the inscription, and say that Edward the First never held a Parliament at RHUDDLAN.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

DECEMBER 11, 1878.

Original Documents.

[408] THE DRAWERS IN DEE.

The Company of DRAWERS IN DEE was a Guild of long continuance in Chester. It was composed mainly of the Fishermen and the Owners of Salmon Fishing-boats; and the geographical limits of their charter seem to have been from the Old Bridge at Chester to the Rocks at Brewers Hall and Blaon, with the fishery of what was in the 16th century called the LAKE OF BLAON. Later on there was attached to this Guild the BREWERS' COMPANY and the COMPANY OF WATER LEADERS; so that the united Guild seems to have had to do with every class of Water, dilute and undilute, supplied to or used by the citizens. Beer, however, like blood, is thicker than water; and while the two water Companies named have long become extinct, the Brewers' Guild, like the peculiar water it dispenses, still exhibits much of its original strength and spirit.

Turning casually over the Book of Orders and Accounts once belonging to the older Company, I came the other day upon the following entries, which are well worthy of preservation:—

"Company of Drawers in Dee.

"1 July, being the Monday next after St. Peter's Day, An'o D'ni, 1700, Robert Brerewood, Esqr., was unanimously elected to be Alderman of the said Company.

"Mem'dum, the same day and year, It is agreed by the said Ald'm, Stewards, and Company that the said Company shall have the benefit of the Lease heretofore made by Peter Weston, Esqr., to Ald'n Street and others of the Fishery of ye Kings pool & cage, for the residue of the term yet in being, from and after this present year ending the last day of December next; and that the Reserved Rent shall be paid by the Company, &c."

Under the Charter of Henry VII, this rent was defined to be "twenty-four pounds of the farm of the fishery and fish of a certain stank of the Lord the King,

called the 'Kynges Pole of Dee,' then demised to Hugh Hurleston for 20 years next to come." It included rights over the salmon taken in the Royal Cage at the Causeway.

The Order next following in the same Book runs as follows:—

"Whereas several Complaints have been made that some persons do set stakes and nets near Blaon & Saughall, quite over and across the Channel of the River, contr'y to law, so that boats cannot freely pass, nor can Salmon come freely up the River. It is therefore ordered that if any of the members of the said Company or any of their Skarmen shall take up the middle part of such nets or Stakes, w'ch they shall find so set and fastned in the Channel of the said River, they shall be justified and indemnified by the Company for their so doing; and if any action be brought, the same shall be made a Company's cause. As witness our hands the first day of July, An'o D'ni, 1700.

Robert Brerewood, Ald'm'
John Johnson } Stewards
Samuel finlow }
Samll. finlow, sen.
Charles Fletcher
Samuel Aspinwall
Roger Comberbach
Thos. Williams."

These two Orders were manifestly in view of an assertion by the GROSVENORS (whose servant the newly-fledged Alderman of the Company, Mr. Robert Brerewood, was) of a paramount right of Sergeantry over the Dee, even to the exclusion of the Mayor and Aldermen of Chester. Of course, these authorities did not tamely submit to any such insolent claim; and after a few ostentatious assertions of the right by their bellicose Deputy Sergeant, the Grosvenors quietly yielded up the battle to the Corporation. This dispute, which came to a head in 1705, is well set forth in a paper read before the Chester Archaeological Society by the late Mr. W. F. Ayrtton, and printed in the 1st Volume of the Society's *Journal*.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[409] LETTER OF MATTHEW HENRY.

In the *Letters of Eminent Men addressed to Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S.*, the historian of Leeds, are a few of local interest, from the pen of the Rev. MATTHEW HENRY, written during his long residence at Chester. I shall transcribe one for THE SHEAF, in which he feelingly records his friendship for DR. TYLSTON, a celebrated physician of his day at CHESTER.

In a previous letter, printed in the same volume, Matthew Henry tells his correspondent Thoresby that

he had promised Mr. Boyse, a fellow minister settled in Dublin, that he would act as "groomsman" at his approaching marriage to a lady at Leeds. When the time came for redeeming his promise, Mr. HENRY found himself most sadly detained at Chester.

"Chester, June 23, 1699.

"Dear and honoured Sir,—

"The disappointment of my journey to Leeds, which I promised myself a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction in, added to those many instances by which I am brought not to boast of to-morrow.

"You cannot imagine what an unspeakable loss I had of Dr. Tylston, who was buried that very day that Mr. Boyse was married,—so great a scholar, so good a man, so profitable a companion, and so true a friend, as I despair to meet with again in this world. He had just completed the thirty-fifth year of his age, when his sun went down at noon. He was in this way exemplary, that though he was a man of very large and catholic principles, and had nothing in him that was narrow, and was not dissatisfied with the lawfulness of the terms of lay conformity; yet, having joined himself in communion with us, he constantly adhered to us, because he thought himself obliged to attend that which he found most to his edification, and to encourage that which he thought most pure; and he would not be looked upon as unstable, and fickle. . . . You will excuse me that I write so much of one that was a perfect stranger to you; but he was one I had so just and so great a value for, that I must take all occasions to mention him, for his memory is precious with me, as it will be with many.

"Our worthy friend, Mr. Boyse, after he had waited for the carrier that should have brought his goods, but came not for a week after he undertook to be here, went down last Saturday to the water-side [Parkgate] with his good wife (in whom, I believe he is very happy), but there he has been windbound ever since. I went down thither last night to see him, and left him there very well, a patient expectant.

"I am surprised at a hint in your last of the dislike of the alterations in the second edition of my father's Life, and should be very glad to know particularly what they are: many, I am sure, they cannot be. I have not ready any letters [Thoresby was an ardent autograph collector] or other things, to communicate to you; but if you could at any time take Chester in your way, you should see what I have that is rare, and I should be very pleased to contribute to your collections. . . .

"I desire to be remembered in your prayers, and rest, Dear Sir,

Your much obliged humble servant,

MATT. HENRY."

We see in this letter another evidence of the frequent wearisomeness of the passage between CHESTER and DUBLIN, by way of PARKGATE, in those days; passengers being sometimes detained for weeks together in that never very lively seaside village, waiting for a favourite wind.

H. S. A.

[410] THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH 240 YEARS AGO.

This invention is usually claimed for the scientists of our own generation; and, no doubt, as regards its practical application, they are well entitled to the honour. But that the principle was known and publicly asserted in Charles the First's days, I will now proceed to show.

Dr. JOHN WILKINS, the brother-in-law to Oliver Cromwell, was appointed BISHOP OF CHESTER in 1668, and was a profound lover of science for at least a quarter of a century prior to his attaining the mitre. In 1641 he published a scarce and most curious work, entitled "MERCURY, or the Secret and Swift Messenger: showing How a Man may with Privacy and Speed communicate his Thoughts to a Friend at any distance." In chapter 19, pp. 145-6, taking his text apparently from *Famianus Strada*, he says:—

"Let there be two needles provided, of any equal length and bignesse, being both of them touched with the same loadstone. Let the letters of the Alphabet be placed in the circles on which they are moved, as the points of the compass under the needle of the Mariner's Chart. Let the friend that is to travaille take one of them with him, first agreeing upon the dayes and hours, wherein they should conferre together: At which times if one of them move the needle of his instrument to any letter of the Alphabet, the other needle, by a Sympathetic, will move unto the same letter in the other instrument, though they be never so farre distant. And thus by severall motions of the needle to the letters, they may easily make up any words or sense which they have a mind to expresse."

The Bishop is here giving rather the opinions of *Strada*, perhaps, than his own. But it is worth placing upon record in a CHESHIRE SHEAF of Historic Gleanings, how very near to the Specifications of the present Electric Telegraph was the half-prophetic language here quoted of a namesake of my own,—a former and highly learned Bishop of CHESTER.

J. WILKINS, B.A.

[411] EASTHAM LOCAL JOTTINGS, 18TH CENTURY.

In a packet of miscellaneous scraps passing through the hands of Mr. J. C. JEAFFERSON, during the examination of the Records at the Town Hall, Chester, in October last, I noticed and transcribed the following titbit of phonetic spelling:—

"This his to give notes that there will be aday of Sale of the goods as wass the Late Edward Edwards in Great Sutton 4 horses and gears, two Carts, Sume heay, Sume Corn, and Sume Strow, a plow, and apare of harows all to be Sold on tuesday next 8 of this instont March." [No date, but probably circ: 1750.]

The next scrap is just a little in advance of the other, both in composition and in order of time:—

"23th January, 1773. Abill upon John Lee, from Peter Woodward for five yards of new flaging his

berrying place in the North Oil in Eastham	
Parish Church	0. 8. 4
for facing the body stone	0. 1. 0
for fifteen Letters	0. 1. 8

20. 10. 7

Rec'd the a bove bill
by me Peter Woodward
his P mark."

Flookersbrook.

B.

Queries.

[412] MOTTRAM BODY-SNATCHING.

This North Cheshire locality is said to enjoy the unenviable notoriety of having been in the last generation a favourite home of the Body-snatcher. What were the circumstances that gave rise to this disgraceful reputation?

L. L.

[413] THE KING'S FISH-BOARD.

Reference is made in an old tract in the British Museum to "The King's Fish-board at Chester." I have referred to Hemingway, Pigot, Lysons, Hanshall, and other local Histories, but can find no trace of this term in any of them. May I hope for any better success in my appeal to THE CHESHIRE SHEAF?

CAMERO-BRITON.

[414] MACCLESFIELD CHURCH SPIRE.

I find from Finney's *Antiquities of Macclesfield*, 1871, p. 17, that this spire, having been seriously damaged during the Siege of the town in 1643-4, was taken down in 1740; but that some portion of the stonework was still remaining in 1818, when the tower was newly roofed. "From a manuscript now extant," Mr. Finney informs us that the lead which covered the Spire, and also the ancient Cross which crowned its summit, were sold by the Corporation on Nov. 21, 1783, and fetched as follows:—

"The Cross	10 10 0
8 Lots of Lead	101 14 0"

The price obtained for the Cross sounds a large one for that day, and seems to indicate that it was a handsome relic. Can anybody furnish a description of it, and say who was the purchaser in 1783? Where is the Cross now preserved?

G. T.

[415] TWO KINGS IN BRENTFORD.

"The City of Chester has at this time two Mayors and four Sheriffs, all of whom are exercising their respective authorities! The legal magistrate and two sheriffs have been elected by the Mayor and Corporation at large, with whom the authority is vested; while the others, namely, SIR W. W. WYNN, Mayor, and Messrs. HASTINGS and FLETCHER, Sheriffs, were elected by the

club and citizens in the interest of LORD GROSVENOR. An information, in the nature of a *Quo Warranto*, has in consequence been granted by the Court of King's Bench, against SIR W. W. WYNN and Messrs. HASTINGS and FLETCHER, to show cause by what authority they took on themselves the respective offices."—*Gentleman's Magazine*, Nov., 1813. How did the dispute end?

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. E.

Replies.

[416] THE FINNY OAK.

[No. 199.—Aug. 7.]

Quite accidentally this morning, while reading over a few pages of Webb's quaint description of the county, as printed in the *Fale Royal*, I came upon the following all sufficient reply to the above-named query. WEBB, at page 117-8, has been dilating upon the charms of the Forest of Delamere, and that "very delicate house called the *Chamber, in the Forest*," and thus proceeds:—

"I might venture to wade into a long discourse of those two towns, or rather cities, which not only old tales, but even the writers both ancient and modern, do make report of; but because few other circumstances do occur, and not so much as the ruins of any piece of them do remain, the names only of the Hundred of *Eadsbury*, and a stately old Tree, which they call the "Finny Oak," which are said to be derived from the Town or City of *Endefed*, and the Fort or Castle of *Finborow*, only except: I had rather leave to the credit of those reports and writers, then labour farther for a thing which if we did find we can never recover."

I suppose, after 250 years' lapse, it is too much to hope that this evidently fine old tree may be yet standing. But perhaps some reader living near the Forest will kindly inform us thereupon, and especially whether there be any tradition relating to it now lingering in the neighbourhood.

A WOODMAN.

[417] CAPTAIN THOMAS SANDFORD.

[No. 211.—Aug. 14.]

In a communication lately received from the present representative of this family, I learn the following facts:—

"Captain THOMAS SANDFORD was second son of my ancestor, Robert Sandford, of Sandford, by his wife Isabell Egerton (half sister of Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord High Chancellor), being daughter of W. Egerton, of Betley, by Annie, daughter of Sir Thomas Lacon, of Willy.

"From an old letter I learn that Thomas Sandford was born in the house of a Richard Grosvenor, (of Eaton) in Chester; and that he and others killed

at Nantwich, were buried in St. Werburgh's Church, Chester. Thus far he may be said to have been a "Cheshire man," but by ancestry he was essentially Salopian."

Thanks to this information old Chester gains a loyal and gallant son, of whom she may indeed be proud; and Mr. SALISBURY may now add another to his already extensive list of "Border Counties Worthies."

T. HUGHES.

[418] "THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER."

[No. 254.—Sept. 11.]

I am able to inform your querist, Mr. MORRIS, that his set of "THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER, or Companion to the Chester Courant," is complete, with the exception of a single leaf. No. 1 was issued, in 12mo, on Monday, September 12, 1814, price 3d., and the work, which was published fortnightly, came to a premature end with the 7th No. on October 24 of the same year.

Like most similar ventures of that and an earlier date, it consists almost entirely of Selections from various sources, its local interest being confined to a few modest Verses, Enigmas, &c. One Chester paragraph the Editor does indeed vouchsafe to his readers, and I will venture to ask the insertion of it here.

"The following curious accident," he says, "happened at Chester, on a Sunday in the Midsummer Fair week, 1753:—

"A Gentleman was riding up and down one of the principal streets, and shouting in a very outrageous manner: 'at length he fell off his horse, very much bruised, and the animal ran away. He was taken into a house for surgical assistance; and the Mayor ordered his horse to be taken to the Pinfold [in Upper Northgate Street], which was near to the House of Correction at the Northgate,] whose keeper had the care of it. In a few days the gentleman recovered, and, after paying a fine for his drunkenness, had his horse restored to him, and he himself was set at liberty. He then addressed the following lines to the Mayor:—

"Was ever man before so fitted?

The master drunk,—the horse committed!

'Horse, never heed,—take thou no care,
Thou'lt be a horse, when he's no Mayor!"

The last leaf, wanting in your querist's copy, contains a short article on "Tobacco," and the following valedictory address, on page 168:—

"To the Readers of THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER,

"The great influx of business of a temporary though urgent nature, and the necessity of finishing for publication in a given time, a very heavy work, which has been some time in hand, compels us to give notice to the readers of the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER that it will for the present be suspended. It is our intention, however, to resume the publication with the commencement of the ensuing year;

when we shall present the work in an improved form, printed in a larger type, and on a superior paper.

Those persons who intend taking in the New Series are requested to favour us with their names (post paid) by the end of the ensuing month.

Chester: Printed by J. Monk, in Newgate-street."

The promise held out as above was never fulfilled, and nothing more appears to have been heard or seen of THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

F. S. A.

[419]

ODARD'S SWORD.

[No. 271.—September 25.]

The Sword of ODARD (or HUDARD), the presumed ancestor of the DUTTONS, has long been a venerated heir-loom of the family, although it may reasonably be doubted whether the weapon referred to in the following extract be really the sword of that great chieftain.

SIR PETER LEYCESTER is the earliest authority I can put my hands on for this tradition. He says, in his *Historical Antiquities*, Part IV., p. 250,

"This Hudard's or Odard's Sword, is at this day, 1665, in the Custody of the Lady Elinour, Viscountess Kilmorey, sole daughter and heir of Thomas Dutton, late of Dutton, Esquire, deceased; which Sword hath for many Ages past been preserved, and passed over from Heir to Heir as an Heir-loom, by the name of Hudard's Sword; and so at this day it is by Tradition received and called."

Again, at page 260, Sir Peter harks back to the subject in the following words:—

"Robert Viscount Kilmorey died at Dutton 12 Septembris, 1653. So that the Lady Elinour Kilmorey survived both her Husbands: in whose Custody Hudard's Sword, as Tradition hath it, now remains, whereof I made mention in the beginning."

A. DAKEYNE.

[420]

MODERN MONUMENTAL BRASS.

[No. 388.—Nov. 27.]

Mr. JNO. LEYFIELD is referred to Part V. new edition of *Ormerod*, where he will find all perhaps he wishes to know relating to Sir Thomas Danyers. In the account of Rook Savage are some further particulars.

A.

MR. LEYFIELD will find an account of the Danyers family in the new edition of DR. ORMEROD's "History of Cheshire"; and SIR THOMAS DANYERS is particularly mentioned in MR. BEAMONT's "House of Lyme" and in his "Arley Charters," &c.

As to the brass itself, it was erected by me in order that so distinguished a personage as SIR THOMAS might not be forgotten in the district in which he lived. Bradley Hall is within a short distance of Grappenhall Church.

J. PAUL RYLANDS, F.S.A.

Thelwall, Warrington.

DECEMBER 18, 1878.

Original Documents.

[421] ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL, CHESTER.

Most of the Original Documents hitherto printed in THE SHEAF have been copied from records preserved in one or other of the national or local Record Offices. I vary the rule to-day by transcribing a document from my own collection, relating to the HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST at Chester. It relates to property belonging, in Elizabeth's days and long before, to the Hospital, in CAERGWELE and SHORDELEY, county Flint, but by this deed virtually conveyed into private hands. The purchaser, Richard Yonge (probably one of the Bryn Yorkin family), became afterwards Master of the Hospital; and the names of two other of the Masters appear also in the document or on its endorsements.

"THIS INDENTURE Made the sixtene Day of June in the fyfthe yere of the raigne of our sou'aigne lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Quene of England fraunce and Ireland, Defender of the ffaith, &c., Being the yere of o'r Lord god 1563. Bytwine Will'm Hayworthe, clerk, master of the Hospitall of saint John baptist w'thout the north-gate of the [city] of chester, and the brethren & systers of the same hospitall of thone part, and Richard yonge, sonne & heire apparent of gruff' yonge of chordeley in the countie of flynt, gentylman, of thother part, WYTNESSITH that the said master, brethren, and systers, by & w'th their hole assents and consents, as well for and in considera'ion of a certen some of money to them by the said Richard at thensealing & Delyu'y herof paid, as also for thener reasonable Respects them moving, HAVE graunted & dymysid, & by these p'nte Do graunt Dymyse & confirme, vnto the said Richard yonge all and singuler those and the same their mesuages, lands, tenem'ts, medowes, pastures, fyelds, feedings, woods & underwoods, waters, [stanks] fysshings, com'ens, & all other their hereditam'ts with thapp'tenno's, in chordeley foressaid, and in Cairgorley, & in eu'y of them, in the said countie of flynt, That is to saye, one . . . and all howses, buildings, & orchards to the same belonging in chordeley foressaid, nowe or late in the tenure or occupac'ion of the said Gruff'. And also eleven clausures or pastures of land in Chordeley foressaid, nowe or late in the tenure or occupac'ion of the said Gruff'; wherof one is callid tierglas, one other callid kayirkyll, one other callid kayberllan nessav, one other callid sovoll keyirch issa, one other callid kayberllan itha, one other callid kay-vcha, one other callid kay issa, one other callid burdier, one other callid kay ithell, one other callid kay b.ll., with one other callid kay eithin, and also one com'en or pasture of ground callid talourne in

chordeley foressaid; and also one mesuage & one little close in chordeley foressaid, now or late in the tenure or occupac'ion of one John David. And also one other mesuage & a garden in cairgorley foressaid, now or late in the tenure or occupac'ion of one Thomas ap John ap madooke, and all woods, vnde'-woods, waters, fysshings, w'th thapp'tenno's growing or being in or vpon or belonging vnto the p'myses, or to any p'te or p'cell therof. To HAVE and to hold the same mesuag's, lands, tenem'ts, medowes, pastures, woods, vnd'rwoods, and all other the p'myses w'th thapp'tenno's, vnto the said Richard yong, his execut's and assignes w'thout ympeachm't of wast, from the Day of the date of these p'nts for, During, and by all the terme of fyve hundred yeres then next ensuyng, and fully to be complet and endyd. YELDING and paying therefore yerely During the same terme vnto the said master, breth-eryn and systers and their successors, fourtene shillings two pens halpeny of leafull money of england, at the feast Daies of saint martyn the byshopp and the Natyuitie of saint John baptiest, by even por'ons. AND yf yt happen the said yerely rent of xiiij. s. ijd ob. to be byhynd and vnpaid in part or in all after any of the said feasts in w'ch yt owght to be paid, and being leafull askyd, that then yt shall be leafull to the said master, brethren, and systers, and their successors & assignes into the said mesuages, lands, tenem'ts, and all other the p'myses to entre & Distrayne, & the Distresse there had & taken to Dryve and take awaye, and the same to Detayne vntill suche tyme the same Rent for w'ch the same Distresse is taken be fully satisfied and paid. AND the said master, brethren, and systers and their successors the said mesuag's, lands, tenem'ts and all other the p'myses with thapp'tenno's vnto the said Richard yonge his execut's and assignes, in maner and forme foressaid During the said terme of fyve hundred yeres, agaynat all men shall warrant and Defend by these pn'ts. And yf yt happen the said yerely rent of xiiij. s. ijd ob. be behynd vnpaid in part or in all by the space of one hole yere next after any of the said feasts in w'ch yt owght to be paid, and being leafully askyd, and no suffycient Distresse may or cane be found in or vpon the p'myses or any p'cell therof, that then yt shall be leafull to the said mr., bretherne, and systers, and their successors and assignes and to eu'y of them into the said p'myses to reentre and the same to have and enioye agayne as in their their form' estate, this indenture to the contrary notw'th-standing. IN WYTNESE wherof the said p't's to these p'nts interchaungably have put their seales the Day and yere fyfyt above wryten.

Fact' signat' et sigill at' in p'ntia

JOHN JEMISON THOM'S YONG
EDWARD GRIFFI JOSUA BAMFORD
DAVID PHILLIPES, and others."

Endorsed— "Shordley, } Rich'd. Younge
Cairgury } 16'o Janu., 5'o Eliz.:"

There are also endorsed on the back of the Deed the following records of its production before a Chancery Commission :—

"vij'o. die Januarij, 1616, and RE's Jacobi &c.,
xiii'j'o., shewed before vs the co'missioners sub-
scribed,

JUAN LLOYD }
DA : SPEED } Com'ission's."
FE : ROBERTS }

"This Indenture was shewne to Wil'm Younge
at the tyme of his examinac'on taken, exparte
Edwardi ap Rogers, Defen : versus Georgi'm Hope,
the cleaventh day of february, 1616.

OTH : NICHOLSON."

There is no mention of this Deed or of the properties
it relates to, in either *Ormerod* or *Pennant*. But on
turning to the "Report of the Charity Commissioners
for Cheshire, 1835," I find that the Master's Lease for
500 years to Younge was set aside by the Court of
Chancery, on Dec. 9, 1616, the estates going back to
the Charity; and I believe they remain still in the
hands of the Chester Charity Trustees.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[422] HIGDEN'S ACCOUNT OF CHESTER.

This early Latin description of the city has never
hitherto been printed entire in any work locally accessi-
ble, so far as I am aware. It may, therefore, not be
amiss to reproduce *TREVISIA's* translation of *RANULPH'S*
CHRONICLE (*Record Publications*), wherein the Old
Monk of Chester tells all he knows of the city in whose
abbey he so long resided, in the library of which he
studied to such excellent purpose, and beneath the roof
of which he died and lies buried.

It is in Chapter XLVIII. of his first book that he
takes up his parable about the old city, and thus pro-
ceeds. I quote from the translation by *TREVISIA*,
discarding the old English *skorn* (which he uses) for the
modern *sk* in the spelling of the words :—

"Brother Rannulf, monk of Chestre, compiled and
made this present cronicle. The citee of legiouns,
that is, Chestre, stondeth in the merche of Engelond
toward Wales, bytwene tweie armes of the see
that hatte [are called] Dee and Merse. This citee
in tyme of Britouns was heed and chief citee of al
Venedocia, that is, North Wales. The foundour of
this citee is vnknowe, for who that seeth the founde-
mentis of the grete stones wolde rather mene that
it were Romayns work, other, work of geauntes,
than work i-made by settinge of Bretouns. This
citee somtyme in Britische speche heet Caerleon,
Legecestria in Latyn, and hatte now Cestria in Latyn,
and Chestren in Englishe, and the Citee of Legiouns
also. For there lay a wynter the legiouns of
knygtes that Iulius Cesar sente for to wyne Irlond;
and afterwards Clawdius Cesar sente legiouns out of
that citee for to winne the ilonds that hatte
Orades. What euere William Malmesbury by

tellynge of other men mette of this citee, this citee
hath plente of lyfode of corne, of flesche, and of
fische, and specialliche of pris salmoun. That citee
fongeth [takes in] grete marchaundise, and sendeth
out also. Also nygh this citee beeth salt welles,
metal, and ocr. Northumbres destroyed this citee
somtyme; but afterward Elfeda, lady of Mercia
bulde it age' and made it wel [much] more. In this
citee beeth weies vnder erthe, with vawtes of stoon
werk wonderliche i-wrought, thre chambres workee
greet stones i-graued with olde men names there
ynne. There is also Iulius Cesar his money [? names
wonderliche in stones i-graued, and othere noble
mennes also with the writynge aboute. This is the
citee that Ethelfride, Kyng of Northumber, destroyed;
and slogh [slew] there faste by nygh two thousand
monkes of the mynistris of Bangor. This is the
citee that kyng Edgar com to som tyme with senene
kynges that were suget to hym. A metrene brackets
out in this mannere in preisyng of this citee :—

Chester, Castletoun, as he [it] were,

Name taketh of a castile [there] :

Hit is vnknowe

What man bulde this citee nowe

Tho Legecestrias thes

Heet now toun of greet prys.

Stones on the walle

Someth work Hercules alle;

There long with myght

To dure that hep is i-light.

Saxon smal stones

Set vpon greet beeth att ones.

There vnder grounde

Lotynge double vault is i-founde.

That helpeth with sondes

Meny men of westene londes.

Fisch, flesche, and corn low

This cite toun hath i-now.

Schippes and chaffare

See water bringeth i-now thare.

Godescalle there is

That was emperour or [ere] this,

And the ferthe Honry kyng,

There is here rigtene dwellinge

Of kyng Haralde

Poudre there git is halde,

Bacchus and Mercurius, Mars and Venus, also

Lauerne,

Proteus and Pluto regneth here in the towne.

God woot [says Trevisa in a sort of foot-notes
what this is to mene, but poetes in there
manere of speche feyneth as they euerich kynde
crafte and leuing [living] hadde a dyuersit
[different] god, euerich from other; and so the
feyneth a god of bataille and of figtynge, and clepeth
[call] hym Mars; also they feyneth a god of counetis
of richesse and marchaundise, and clepeth hym
Mercurius; and so Bacchus thei clepeth god of wyn;
Venus, god of fairnesse and of loue; Lauerne, god
of thefte and of robberie; Proteus, god of falsched,
and of gyle; and Pluto, god of helle. And so his
semeth that this vers wolde mene that these feyned
goddess regneth and beeeth i-serued in Chestre;

Mars with fighting and cockynge; Mercurius with couetise of richesse and marchandyse; Bachus with grete drinkeynge; Venus with loue moughtful wys; Lanerna with thefts and robbery; Proteus with falshe and gyle. Than [therefore] is Pluto not vnserued, god of helle.

There Babilon lore

More mygt hap, truthe the more."

This moralising of *TREvisa* on the *CHESTER* of his early day does not speak too favourably of the character of our citizen forefathers. Let us hope the "moral" was only dragged in to "adorn the tale" of those "greet stones i-graued with olde mens names there ynne!"

L. L.

[423] *CHESTER "SPORTS" IN 1738.*

I was looking over an old Chester paper lately—*Adams's Weekly Courant*, April 5—12, 1738,—and there saw the subjoined advertisement, which I copied as a contribution to *THE SHEAF* :—

"*CHESTER*, April 5, 1738.

"THIS is to give Notice that the Gentlemen of Cheshire, and the Gentlemen of Flintshire, will Weigh upon Monday, the 24th of this Instant April at Chester, Thirty-one Cocks each, for Ten Guineas a Battle, and Two Hundred the Main, and Ten Cocks for Bye Battles; they will be Fought the Four following Mornings, at the *WHITE TALBOT* Cock-Pit. A good Ordinary will be provided each Day for all Gentlemen and others, at the said *WHITE TALBOT* Inn, in Eastgate-street.

By Philip Downs.

"N.B.—The Yearly RACES begin on Monday, the Day of Weighing, and 'tis believ'd the Diversion will be very good, there being a certainty of several Horses, &c., to Start."

GEORGINA F. JACKSON.

White Friars, Chester.

[424] *HOLYWELL versus LATHUM SPA.*

It would seem that in the 17th century, St. Winifred's Well, at Holywell, had a formidable rival in a Spa existing at Lathom, Lancashire. Dr. Borlase, of Chester, an eminent physician, of whom we may hereafter have something more to say, wrote and published in 1670, a small volume, entitled "*LATHUM SPAW*, in *Lancashire*; with some remarkable cases and cures effected by it,"—small 8vo., 72 pp.

The volume is dedicated "To the Right Honourable CHARLES, Earl of Derby, Lord Lieutenant of the County Palatines of *Cheshire* and *Lancashire*, Chamberlain of Chester, and Lord of Man and the Isles, &c." After relating numerous cures, those of the Earl of Derby and his Countess being amongst them, the author proceeds :—

"Mr. WILLIAM BLACKBOURN, of *Billings*, a young gentleman, having some sharp heats breaking forth in his body, went the last Autumn to *Holywell*, in hopes the cold of that Well (certainly a clear and

fresh one) would have relieved him. But washing there [he] returned notwithstanding with the same heats increast, and some days after had the Collick so extreamly, as it tormented him much; Whereupon coming to this *Spaw*, he drank plentifully of it, and was that day cured of his Collick, and mended immediately of his itch."

Farther on in the volume, the learned Doctor proceeds :—

"*Monsieur Pelate*, Gentleman of the Horse to the Countess of Derby, one well versed in Chymistry, and a sober person, who in his own Country had often visited the Waters of Bourbon, and the most reputed Spaws, acknowledges This, in its kind, to be nothing inferior to any of them; it having effected a most signal Cure on him, he being inclinable to a Palsie. . . . The last Summer he went to *Holywell*, and with others bathed himself there. Upon which ensued a great indisposition on his Limbs, and his whole body: The Spring being too cold and piercing (though it must be own'd. for its Rise and Purity, one of the excellentest of that nature), as it decompos'd him much, so much as he hath exprest his resentment ingeniously, *fecit indignatio versus*: since he hath recovered his health by drinking again This *Spaw*."

EDITOR.

Queries.

[425]

A RINGILDER.

On the 15th of March, 1498, King Henry VII. granted to RALPH FOXLOWE, of Flint town, the office of "Ringilder" in the County of Flint, with an allowance of 100 shillings yearly, which five years afterwards was augmented to 105 shillings annually. The Foxlowes were connected with Flint for several generations. What is a RINGILDER, and what were his duties?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Replies.

[426]

THE CHALONER FAMILY.

[No. 345.—Nov. 6.]

"The CHALONERS of Cheshire," writes Noble in his *History of the College of Arms*, page 292, "greatly affected heraldry;" and he adds that it was probable that to that family belonged Robert Chaloner, Esquire, who was appointed Blue Mantle, July, 1660, and Lancaster Herald 1665, holding the latter office in succession to William Ryley (a native of Lancashire). His fee for the first-named office was £20 a year (*State Papers, Dom.*, Chas. II., viij., 123). In the Towneley

Collection is a MS., Vol. IX., consisting of extracts from Statutes which once belonged to 'Robert Chaloner.' Chaloner died 1st Nov., 1676, and was buried on the 17th in St. Bennet's church, near the College of Arms. Noble appends to the notice of this officer of arms a reference to two of the Harleian MSS., viz., MS. 1966 (*Harl. Catal.* ii., 359), and MS. 1970, No. 12 (ii. 361), thus described:—

"An Heraldical Book in folio, now imperfect and almost spoiled by moisture; wherein I find, the Baronage of Robert Cooke, Clarencieux [1566-7—1593]; with Additions & Continuations, and a Table at the end; begun to be written and painted by Thomas Chaloner, & continued by his son Jacob Chaloner, Randle Holme the second, and others."

"A Tract (mostly in the Welsh Language), and treating of Armes and Pedegrees; transcribed by Thomas Chaloner, of Chester, King of Armes for Ireland, from the book which Guttan Owen wrote with his own hand; with some Additions."

There are no pedigrees of the Chaloners of Cheshire in Mr. Bridger's excellent Catalogue. Have any been published since the compilation of that work? Of the Jacob Chaloner who is alluded to in MS. 1966, Noble says that he petitioned to be admitted to the office of Portuallis Pursuivant at the death of Philip (qy. *John*, who died 1625) Holland. There is a MS. of his in the collection of F. B. Frank, Esq., of Campsall Hall, co. York, with a dedication, being a list of the Chief Justices of England, with arms. "His father," continues Noble, "was born about 1594: the son made great collections about 1620 [*sic*]. James Chaloner, one of the regiodes, the historiographer of Man, printed it [*i.e.*, a Treatise on the Island] at the end of the *Fale Royal*, in 1656, and he who settled a college in Man is said to have been Jacob's son" (page 293). James Chaloner was of a London family, being the son of Sir Thomas Chaloner the younger, (the discoverer of the alum mines at Guisborough, Yorkshire); he was of Brasennoe, and of one of the Inns of Court, and died in 1661.

On the opposite side in the great civil strife was Richard Chaloner, a citizen of credit in London, who lost his life in the celebrated plot (June, 1643), in which Waller, the poet, was implicated. This Mr. Chaloner had connections in Cheshire. Thomas Challenor, in June, 1660, being then the Postmaster at Stone, co. Stafford, claimed to be the brother of Mr. Chaloner above-named, "martyred for his loyalty before the (old) Royal Exchange in 1643," and said that he himself had suffered during the war. Yet he kept his office as postmaster, having (he states) been the advancer of the letter-office to its present value, and having formed the branches on the Chester road, which had been an example to others. On these grounds he begged the restoration of the profits of the office; with leave to prosecute another undertaking for safe and

speedy dispatch of merchants' letters, &c., at cheaper rates than formerly (*State Papers*, Vol. vj., 151). Lloyd (*Memoires*, p. 565) believed that Thomas Chaloner, of Shrewsbury, the admirable Greek scholar, was the cousin of the Chaloner who was executed. Thomas is described as schoolmaster of Shrewsbury, Newport, and Ruthin; that part of the country being said to be much beholding to him for keeping up the principles of loyalty, which he distilled into the vast company of gentlemen bred by him in learning. His name is amongst those who compounded for their property.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

[427]

A ROYALIST PASS, 1648.

[Nos. 349, 394.—Nov. 6, 27.]

The following entry relating to the COLLEY family will probably interest T. D.-C. as well as some other of your readers. It was recently sent me by a friend at Nottingham, being taken from the Registers of Trowell, co. Notts.

"Hugh Colley, of the City of Chester, Esqre., and Mrs. Catherine Staples, of Nottingham, were married by license, April 17th, 1711."

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

We find this Mr. HUGH COLLEY described upon the Freeman's Roll of Chester city as a "Merchant," and admitted to the franchise in 1696. It is pretty certain he was nearly related to Samuel Collie, merchant, who was similarly admitted in 1654, and to Jonathan Colly, tanner, enfranchised in 1669.

Mr. HUGH COLLEY, whom Mr. Earwaker has signalled by the above waif gleaned from the other side of the kingdom, selected an auspicious year for his marriage; for he was at the very time serving the ancient and honourable office of the King's Sheriff of Chester city, and entitled thereby, as of prescriptive right, to the designation of Esquire, as the direct local representative of the sovereign.

EDITOR.

[428] THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.

[No. 364.—Nov. 13]

The Mayor of Chester's courtesy title was evidently acquired by prescriptive right, as one of the greater Mayors of old times. The title occurs in local documents far back into the sixteenth century, and no doubt existed long before. From equal antiquity the Sheriffs of Chester were styled "The Worshipful the Sheriffs."

S. S.

[429]

SAMUEL WARREN, Q.C.

[No. 377.—Nov. 20.]

In reply to H. S. A., SAMUEL WARREN was born at The Backery, Llay, in the Parish of Gresford, his mother being at the time on a visit to her brother, who resided there.

Wrexham.

G. BRADLEY.

I am able to answer the question asked by H. S. A. DR. WARREN, the father of the late Samuel Warren, married a daughter of Richard Williams, of the Raere Farm, on the borders of Denbighshire. Here SAMUEL WARREN was born, as his mother happened to be visiting her old home at the time of his birth. In the "Gossiping Guide to Wales" the place is called The Rookery, and in various documents in my possession, it is spelled Rackaray, Raokery, and Rackrey. I have followed the spelling adopted by Dr. Warren in his memoirs of his wife.

Samuel Warren and my father were first cousins, and were born in the same old farm-house, which has been held by our family from 1760. It is, as I have said, in Denbighshire, but very near the borders of both Cheshire and Flintshire.

RICHARD WILLIAMS.

Clifton Cottage, Wolverhampton.

[430] JOHN DOD, THE DECALOGIST.

[No. 401.—Dec. 4]

I write in haste to inform my friend the Rev. PERCY M. HERFORD, that the suggestion in Vol. II., p. 688, was based on a note I had on the subject, and much strengthened by a calculation of age. I regret my time is too fully occupied with much more important matters to enable me to remember the exact reasons which first led to the suggestion as to Dod's relationship; but if there is a *positive statement*, it is no doubt a slip of the pen in revise. The suggestion was for the sole purpose of eliciting further information on the subject from those interested in the matter, to which the extensive circulation of THE SHEAF will no doubt materially contribute.

Barnet, Herts.

T. HELSEY.

DECEMBER 25, 1878.

Original Documents.

[431] CHRISTMAS EVE AT CHESTER IN 1667.

That CHRISTMAS was in anolent days a season of high carnival with our citizen ancestors there are not wanting evidences amply to prove. Year by year, from Christmas Eve to Twelfth Night, the festivities went gaily on; and they seem to have been so universal that all ranks shared in the general dissipation. At Chester the cue was given, according to immemorial custom, by the Mayor and Corporation as a body, in their celebrated SETTING OF THE WATCH upon CHRISTMAS EVE. To this annual ceremony every Guild in the city, with the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and other old customary tenants, lent pomp and circumstance and important representative aid. It seems

pretty certain, moreover, in consequence of the banqueting and "berrages" that thereupon ensued, that there must have been many an aching temple in Chester on the morn of CHRISTMAS DAY.

The very curious Official Letter here printed gives a lively notion of the way the WATCH used to be set in the early days of Charles the Second; when England gratefully welcomed back that dear old Father Christmas whom the Roundhead faction had practically banished for some sixteen years.

"Sir,

"It hath beene an ancient custome of this Cittie yearly upon CHRISTMAS EVE, that the Justices of the Peace, Aldermen, and Com'on Councell, meet att the Maiors house about six of the clock that evening; and then the Maior, Recorder & Justices of the Peace in their scarlett gownes, attended with lights and torches, and accompanied with diverse of the gentry and others, goe thence to the Co'en Hall. And being sate there (where usually is a great concourse of people), Silence beeing com'anded, the CUSTUMARY TENANTS of the Cittie are then called to doe theire services: who, by persons for them, appeare in armes to watch and guard the Cittie for that night.

"Then the RECORDER makes a speech to that auditory, thereby declaring the occasion of that meeting, the venerable antiquitie of the Cittie, and other laudable customes thereof. Which speech being ended, the keyes of the Cittie gates are delivered up to the Maior, and by him delivered to such of the watchmen as hee is pleased to intrust therewith. Then the MAIOR, RECORDER, Justices of the Peace, Aldermen, and Com'on Councell, with the gentry and many others, returne to the Maiors house in like manner as they went thence. And after a collation there had, depart with their light torches to theire severall habitac'ons, and the watchmen to their guards.

"The like alsoe is to bee p'formed by the SHERIFFES severally, the two nights following [Christmas Day], in all things saveing the Recorder's speech. Which Custome att CHRISTMAS next cannot bee well observed, unless you bee pleased to bee here then present. Wherefore I thought fitt to give you the trouble of this relac'on, and alsoe have intreated MR. SHERIFFE HARVEY to attend you herewith, to bee informed whether, or noe, your occasions with conveniency will afford us your presence here att the time aforesaid. And that you will bee pleased in a line or two to signifie the certaintie of your resolu'on therein, Att the request of

Yo'r affectionate freind

RICHARD HARRISON, Maior."

"City of Chester, the
17th December, 1667."

SIR WILLIAM WILLIAMS, the Recorder, to whom this letter was addressed, had only just been nominated to the office, being then described by Sir Peter Leycester as "a very acute young gentleman." He

ultimately rose to be Speaker of the House of Commons, Attorney General, a Baronet, and founder of the much revered family of the Williams Wynns, of Wynnstay.

RICHARD HARRISON, the Mayor, was the first Royalist Sheriff of Chester at the Restoration, serving with the venerable and patriotic Mayor, THOMAS THROFF, of whom a memoir has been already given in *THE SHEAF*.

EDITOR.

432] CHRISTMAS WATCH AT CHESTER.

In an ancient MS, quoted by Mr. J. O. Halliwell Phillips, in his *Palatine Anthology*, 4to, 1850, is the following interesting reference to the WATCH annually set at Chester on CHRISTMAS EVE:—

"The Citizens retaine an old order and custome, w'ch is this: alwayes on Christmas even the Watch begin, and the Mayor, sheriff, aldermen, and fortye of the common counail goe about the cittie in tryumph with torches and fireworks. The Recorder making a speeche of the antiquity of her [the city], founded by gyants."

In the *TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS* of the Chapter of CHESTER CATHEDRAL there are continual references to these Christmas formalities;—for instance—

"1555. For ryngyngo thre pryncipall daies in Chrystemas ijs. viijd.
 "1558. To Randle Bennett for watchyng w'th the Mayr & Shyryffs, Christemasse Eve and Day, and Saynt Ste'e's Day at nyght xijd."
 G. T.

[433] A CHESTER ORDINANCE CONCERNING CHRISTMAS DAY, CIRC: 1577.

The following Ordinance, promulgated by the Mayor and Aldermen of Chester for the better keeping of CHRISTMAS DAY, will be found of interest at the present time. Owing to the abuse of the custom of giving feasts and breakfasts on the morning of Christmas Day before Divine service was concluded, it was decreed that all such feasts should be entirely discontinued on that day till after divine service; and all persons are desired to "give themselves to the hearing of God's service, and to use themselves in contemplation and prayer unto God for the necessary grace and the amendment of their lives."

This Ordinance well illustrates the fatherly care with which these old Corporations were wont to look after the civil and religious behaviour of the inhabitants of their boroughs, and to see that in all things decency was observed. In these days the force of public opinion is stronger even than the edicts of corporations, and the good behaviour of the few has its influence on the many. Feasts on Christmas day are now as ever the rule, but as modern civilization makes these take place in the afternoon or evening, and not in the morning,

the requirements of religion are not interfered with, and the civic byelaws of the time of Queen Elizabeth are fortunately not required in the reign of Queen Victoria.

This Ordinance is preserved in *Harl. MS.*, No. 2105, fo. 322. Although not dated, it is probably of about the year 1577, in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It appears to have escaped the notice of the Chester historians.

Withington.

J. P. EARWAKER.

Notes.

[434] CHRISTMAS WITH PHILIP HENRY, 1664.

This sturdy old Christian seems, like the majority of those whose Nonconformist views were very pronounced, to have attached but little importance to the religious celebration of Christmas. Mr. HENRY, like the rest of his brethren, had paid no attention to this particular feast during the Interregnum; but on CHRISTMAS DAY, 1660, he preached at Worthenbury; regarding this day, however, as he put it, rather as an ecclesiastical than as a Divine feast. Then in 1664, having been meanwhile ejected for Nonconformity, he thus writes in his diary:—

"Dec. 24.—As busy as people are to prepare their houses for Christmas, so much more busy should I be to prepare my heart for Christ."

Next Day he further records—

"25.—No preaching at Chapel [Whitewell Chapel, near Malpas, where he attended when silenced], whereupon I stayed at home, making no conscience of the day to be kept holy."

Holt.

J. C.

[435] CHRISTMAS AT THE CHESTER CITY GAOL.

"We yesterday," says the *Chester Chronicle*, of January 3rd, 1823, "received the following communication dated 'Debtors' Room, City Gaol, Jan. 1st,' with a request that we would insert it:—

"The DEBTORS in the CITY GAOL beg respectfully to return thanks to the SHERIFFS for the very liberal treat they gave them of roast beef, plum pudding, and excellent ale, on CHRISTMAS DAY; and if anything can enhance the value of the gift, it is the handsome manner in which Mr. SHERIFF DUCKER ordered the distribution. They also return their thanks to LORD GROSVENOR, for his gift of two guineas, and to LORD BELGRAVE for his gift of one guinea, and to SIR JOHN GREY EGGERTON for his liberal present this day of two guineas—Acts of munificence like these speak volumes in their honour."

Ledsham.

B. M.

[436] THINGS I REMEMBER.—No. 5.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT THE CATHEDRAL.

Forty years ago and more does my recollection go back to my schoolboy days—spent, the latter part of them, within the confines of the CATHEDRAL—spent, four years of them, as a Foundationer of the Grammar School, and on the Choristers' Desk as a daily servitor in the Quire. CHRISTMAS in those days was, somehow or other, a different sort of thing to the Christmases of my later experience; and I am willing to confess that, to my mind and memory, the former had a charm very much to be preferred to the make-believe latter.

We broke up for our holidays a few days previously. Our School Holidays of course I mean, for with us Choristers it signified a doubling of our church work—musical practices twice a day with our fiery-tempered organist, Thomas Haylett,—and with Ben Linney, George Sherwin, Sam Brown, Moes, Wilkinson, and Humphreys, the then staff of lay vicars, whose performances were, to my mind, not so much behind their modern representatives as some folks would have us believe.

I remember well enough one Christmas afternoon,—on which occasion the silver candlesticks at the altar were specially lighted to heighten the effect, and when the Quire was filled to overflowing, as it always was and is on that particular day,—all had gone well until Handel's glorious anthem "For unto us a Child is born," with its prefatory recitatives, had just commenced. Sherwin the bass singer was, with his rich powerful voice, reciting the words "For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people," when the supply of gas suddenly went down in a startling manner, and there was only just light enough for the singer to follow his part. A messenger was hurriedly despatched to the Gas Works to notify the defect; but long before he could have reached there—just, indeed, as Sherwin had come to the words "Upon them hath the Light shined"—the supply of gas as suddenly returned, and the anthem proceeded to its close without farther incident or interruption.

This coincidence of time and the words of the anthem with the fall and rise of the gas, made many people think that the accident was intentional; but from enquiries instituted at the time I am quite satisfied that such was not the case, and, indeed, the distance of the Cathedral from the source of gas supply precludes the possibility of any such collusion.

T. HUGHES.

[437] JACKY HUXLEY.

Though there is probably no one now living who personally remembers the harmless half-idiot whose name heads this article, he was in his way and day a popular public character in and about the city. He was commonly known as LORD GROSVENOR'S FOOL,

and was maintained on the Eaton establishment for almost the whole of his life to amuse alike the household and the continuous succession of visitors who in those days thronged the old Vanbrugh house at EATON.

We heard in our youth many an old Cestrian recount grotesque enough stories of poor old JACKY, some of them most amusing, but all of them inoffensive. For, although he was of course, in our civic election squabbles of those days, an out and out "Grosvenor," his advocacy of his master's interests, and his tirades against the other party, were never such as to raise other than a smile from either side, who, "yellow" and "blue" alike, made full allowance for his infirmities.

Between EATON and CHESTER his life was equably, happily spent. With the "house's" livery on his back, his legs and clogs swathed in straw or hay-bands, a Grosvenor cockade in his old slouched hat, and a small toy fiddle in his hand, he would stand for hours each day at the Cross; chattering away with the sedan-chairmen, or with the porters and vent-peg makers who used to then crowd the thoroughfare; occasionally tuning his old sham Cremona, and singing some simple ditty for the enjoyment of his companions.

In the servants' hall at EATON he was always quite at home, generally managing to get at least two good meals a day under his Lordship's roof. In the CHRISTMAS festivities, too, for which the house was proverbially celebrated, JACKY HUXLEY's fiddle was ever heard mixing, not too harmoniously, with the music of the Eaton band; and his half-witted jokes and contretemps made him a very centre of attraction with the servants of the Hall and their town and country cousins.

He died at his old cottage at FIGDALE, within the present Eaton Park, and was buried at Lord Grosvenor's expense in Eccleston Churchyard. There is a characteristic portrait of the old man extant, a copy of which we possess, but we are unable to state the name of the modest artist.

For a more extended notice of HUXLEY reference may be made to HEMINGWAY'S HISTORY OF CHESTER vol. ii, pp. 367-8; but as an incorrect version of the inscription on his gravestone is there printed, we will here give it verbatim:—

"Underneath this Stone
resteth the Remains of the
Mortal part of JOHN HUXLEY,
late at Eaton, who departed
this life the 12th day of Sept:
1798, in the 68 year of his Age."

"Poor Jack, he lies beneath this Rood,
And sure he must be blest,
For if he Could do nothing good
He mean'd to do his Best.
Think of your Souls, ye guilty Throng
Who, knowing what is right, do wrong."

EDITOR.

[438] A WARMINGHAM PARSON-POET.

The Lines quoted below form part of a short poetical address, dedicated "To the r. hon'ble Robert, Viscount Kilmeddy (Kilmorey), and the r. W'll Orlando Bridgeman, esq., Vice Chamberlain of Chester," and are preserved in the Ashmolean MSS., Vol. xxxvij. The author signs himself at the conclusion "ANDREAS WOODS, Pastor of the church of WARMINGHAM, co. Chester." He refers at the commencement to that hollow PEACE agreed to between the contending factions in Cheshire, at BUNBURY, two days prior to the CHRISTMAS of 1642.

"Chester, that noble County Palatine,
After some broyles, by Providence divine,
Few dayes before ye celebrated birth
Of Christ the Prince of Peace (who came to earth
Out of the Father's bosome), did conclude
A wondrous Peace, putting an end to rude
Nick-names (as Round-head) and y't deadly thing,
Robbery, knowne by the terme PLUNDERING.

* * * * *
Let this Peace ever last, ever prevayle,
Like running waters, which will never fayle.—
Cheshire, thou art an exemplary shire
May all shires follow thee, with full desire :
Take such best courses still, and never cease
To passe all countyes in ye waye of Peace."

Mr. ANDREW WOOD was presented to Warmingham on Feb. 20, 1622, and was buried there 19 Decr., 1645.
T. T.

[439] THE ESQUIRE'S CHRISTMAS CLOAK.

It was anciently the custom, upon all great estates, that the servants and retainers wore the livery of their lord; and thus were at all times prepared to take the field under his banner, or to appear in force on any state or festive occasion, wearing the uniform and badge of their master's family.

In 1285 (13 Edward I), SIR HUGH DUTTON of Dutton, knight,—he who the year after built a foot-bridge at Acton for the Abbot of VALE ROYAL—bound himself by deed to WILLIAM GERRARD, his esquire, (probably of Crewdson and Kingsley), to find him during his life with an esquire's cloak, to be delivered to him annually upon CHRISTMAS DAY.

We see the semblance of this custom still kept up, in the showy liveries provided for his javelin-men and trumpeters, year after year, by the High Sheriff of this and neighbouring counties.

H. S. A.

[440] THE CHESTER MIRACLE PLAYS.

These Religious Dramas or MYSTERIES, which were annually performed at WHITSUNTIDE, in the open streets of Chester, were it is said the production of RANULPH HIGDEN, the monk-chronicler of St. Werburgh's Abbey; whose grave, in the south aisle of the Quire, was discovered during the recent work of restoration.

These Plays were a great institution at Chester in the 15th and 16th centuries. The trade Companies or Guilds of the city had each allotted to them the Play most consonant in character with their particular occupations, and it was a matter of great emulation which Guild should make the best and grandest show at the annual celebration.

WHITSUNTIDE was of course the great season for the performance; but at other high feasts, CHRISTMAS, for instance notably, the more appropriate of these Mysteries were enacted in the naves of certain churches, the Town Hall, and other large buildings, for the general edification.

Five ancient MS. copies of these Dramas are known to be in existence—two of which are in the British Museum. These two come from the pen of George Bellin, of Chester: the preliminary "Banes," from which we are now about to quote, are apparently his own composition. We shall select, for this CHRISTMAS Number of THE SHEAF, the portions which are in consonance with the Season, and relate to the Plays most likely to have been produced at Christmas before our citizen ancestors. Addressing in turn four of the Chester Companies, he says to the "Wrights and Slaters":—

"You wrightes and sklaters, with good players in showe,
Lustely bringe fourthe your well-decked carriage :
The beirthe of CHRISTE shall all see in that stage :
Yf the Scriptures awarrantes not of the mydwifes reporte,
The anthour telleth his anthour, then take it in sporte."

Turning then to the "Painters and Glasiers' Company," he says,—

"The appeariage angell and starr upon CHRISTES beirthe
To sheppheardes poore, of base and lowe degree,
You Painters and Glasiers decke out with all meirthe,
And see that *Gloria in excelsis* be songe merelye.
Fewe wordes in that pageante makes meirthe truly,
For all that the alter had to stande uppon,
Was glory to God above, and peace one earth to man."

To the Merchants and Vintners he next addresses himself as follows:—

"And you, worthy merchantes vintners, that nowe have plenty of wine,
Amplifye the storie of those wise Kinges three,
That, through Herodes lande and realme, by the starre that did shine,
Sought the sighte of the SAVIOUR that then borne shoulde bee."

Finally, for our present purpose, he turns himself to the Mercers, and says,—

"And you, worshippfull mercers, though costely and fyne

Yee tryme up your cariage, as custome ever was ;
Yet in a stable was He borne, that mighty Kinge
devyne,
Poorely in a stable, betwixte an oxe and an asse."

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[441] WELLINGTON'S CHRISTMAS VISIT TO
COMBERMERE.

I find this event thus recorded in the *Chester Chronicle* of Dec. 29, 1820:—

"On Saturday, December 23, the DUKE OF WELLINGTON arrived at Combermere Abbey, on a visit to his comrade in arms BARON COMBERMERE. On the following Tuesday the christening took place of Lord Combermere's infant (which would be Wellington, the present Viscount, who was born the 24th November, 1818), when the Hero of Waterloo was one of the sponsors. On Wednesday, the 27th, he came to CHESTER, and was entertained at a grand Banquet at the EXCHANGE, under the Presidency of COL. BARNSTON, who was supported right and left by the above-named heroes. On arriving in Chester by way of Boughton, he proceeded to the Albion Hotel in Lower Bridge-street and went to the CASTLE; on leaving which the crowd was so dense that the endeavours of the soldiers was found impracticable; whereupon THE DUKE mounted one of the Mail Coaches, and drove down Castle-street to the Hotel. He left Chester about 10 p.m. on his return to Combermere, and the following day proceeded thro' Stafford on his way to the Earl of Westmoreland's."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[442] A SERVANT-MAID'S CHRISTMAS LETTER,
1733.

The following letter from a Lady's-maid in London to her elder brother, a tailor at Chester, is of course of no great public interest, but may nevertheless, I think, not unfitly be accorded a corner in the CHRISTMAS SHEAF.

The "Miss Manering" named early in the letter was no doubt Miss Mary Mainwaring, daughter of George Mainwaring, Esq., Mayor of Chester, 1681, and M.P. for the city in 1682; he was direct ancestor of the Mainwarings of Bromborough, county Chester, and Otely Park, county Salop:—

"Londo', Dec'r 14th, 1733.

"Loving Brother,

"I having the Opportunity by Miss Manering's Maid, was willing to let you know how I Did. I have had a violent pain in my Head, and a very bad Cold for some time: my mistress says if I should be ill I shall want for nothing, no more then if I was at home along w'th you, & is very Civill to mee, w'ch I take vastly kind of her.

"Mr. Jones, ye tailor, will be down next week; his Wife is a relation to Mrs. Hayward. I would have you to see him, because he Lives at ye Court End of ye Town, and can give you an acc't of ye Fashions; he sent to know if I had any Commands at Chester,

and he would be willing to serve me; but the whether was so Dirty, and it was so far, that I Could not gett to go.

"having no more to add at pr'sent, save only Wishing you all a Merry Xtmass and a happy new Year: my love to my Brother and Sisters, and to all friends in generall, and please to accept ye same y'r Self from

Y'r Moss Loving Sister till Death,

MARY KELLY."

"Dear Brother Jack, I have sent you a Shilling to play att Cards with this Xtmass, and desire you would accept of itt, & be a good Boy & Dutifull to y'r Brother, for You Don't know w't itt is to be so far from home."

"Mr. Jones ye tailor's", visit to Chester (no doubt to solicit orders from, and settle accounts with, his old clients of good standing there) must have been quite an event for the local dandies of that day; and after the suggested conference with that eminent clothier from "ye Court End of ye Town," Mr. Kelly himself would no doubt be a man of much call among the *habitués* of the even then fashionable Rows of the old city.

The postscript to "Dear Brother Jack" shows that a little turn at card playing and gambling was considered, at all events at Christmas time, not incompatible with Jack's being a "good and Dutifull Boy."

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

JANUARY 1, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JAN. 1.—Walker's Shot Manufactory at Chester commenced.....	1801
" 2.—Diocesan School, Chester, established ...	1812
" 4.—George Lloyd consecrated 8th Bishop of Chester.....	1805
" 7.—Boulton, a watchman, murdered in Chester canal.....	1807

J. H.

Original Documents.

[443] CHESTER CORPORATION ACCOUNTS, 1632
AND 1878.

At the commencement of a NEW YEAR, when most prudent men take into serious consideration the question of Ways and Means, it may not be unprofitable to compare the Income and Expenditure of our City Parliament of nearly 250 years ago with the Receipts and Payments of the City of 1878.

In 1632-3, the Treasurers of the Corporation were Mr. THOMAS ALDERSEY and Mr. RANDLE HOLME, the last-named being the second of that illustrious family quartett, which did so much in its day to rescue the history of old Chester from oblivion.

Though there were *two* Treasurers, it would seem from the Accounts that one only did the work, and that one the active and industrious HOLME. He evidently presented a detailed statement to the Court of Aldermen; but that which we here print for the edification of our readers is only a brief but yet interesting summary.

"Civitas Cestr'.

"The accompts of all the Receipts and Disbursements for the use of the Citty by RANDLE HOLME and THOMAS ALDERSEY, Aldermen and Treasurers of this Citty from the Electyone Daye 1632 vntill the same Daye 1633, Mr. Will'm Sparke, maior : onely accounted by Mr. Holme.

"The saide accountant Doth make it appeare that he hath Receaved for the admyttance of FREEMEN in this yeare, as by the said accounts is fully shewed, the some of

xlvij li. xs.

"The CITTIES RENTALL this yeare by the said accounts Doth Come vnto the some of 74 : 13 : 6, of which some ther is 25s. 4d. will not be gotten nor hath not beene payd this many yeares, as by their names in the said Rentall he maketh it to appeare; all that he Receaved is

lxij li. vijs. iiijd.

"The other Recounts by the said accountant for the Citty's use and expressed in the said accounts, And also are of Rents and other mony formerlye audited and founde Due to the Citty, as by their names and some, and in what yeares Due, as by the said accounts it deth plainely, appeare the some of

CClxij li. xjs. xd.

"The totall of all these RECEIPTS is the some of...

CCCLxxiiij li. xs. ijd.

"The aforesaid accounts do shewe that the said accountant hath Disbursed for the use of this Citty in this p'rent yeare, as by the particulars thereof in the said accounts do fully appeare, the sum of CCCxxxiiij li. xvjs. xd. ob.

"So that vpon these accounts wee doe finde that the said account'ant hath Receaved more then he hath Disbursed the some of

xl li. xijjs. iijd. ob.

The total Receipts for the past year, 1878, amounted to £25,844, while the Payments (including expenditure on Capital Account of £8,000) reached the tangible sum of £41,021, or about 130 times the money spent by the conscript fathers of our city in 1632.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[444] STARTING THE NEW YEAR WELL.

"The Sheriffs of this city," says the *Chester Chronicle* of January 5, 1821, "gave a plentiful dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, and ale to the prisoners in the Northgate Gaol on Christmas Day; and on New Year's Day the praise-worthy example was followed by the Mayor.

"According to annual custom, the Mayor and Corporation attended Divine Service at the Cathedral on NEW YEAR'S DAY, when a very appropriate Sermon was preached by the Rev. Jno. Fish (jun.), and the whole of the Coronation Anthem, 'Zadock the Priest,' &c., was sung by the choir." Then again in 1822-23:—

"On New Year's Day, our Worthy Chief Magistrate gave a magnificent Dinner in the Banquet room at the Exchange to about eighty of the Clergy, Gentry, and Tradesmen of the City."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[445] HARRIERS' HUNT EXTRAORDINARY.

An old Chester newspaper, dated January 2, 1784, contains the following details of an unlooked-for bit of sport vouchsafed to the citizens upon NEW YEAR'S DAY of that year:—

"Yesterday morning, January 1, during the time of divine service at the CATHEDRAL, a hare ran thro' the Cloisters and the Broad Ile, and was pursued by a number of people down Northgate Street, and into Eastgate Street, where she was caught by Mr. Spencer, of this city, mason."

A similar circumstance occurred, somewhere about the same period, in the neighbouring town of WREXHAM. My grandmother, then a young woman, was crossing from her own house in Hope-street to that of a friend opposite, when she saw a hare rapidly coursing down the streets, hotly pursued by dogs. Instinctively kneeling down, and throwing open her cloak, the poor spent puss ran blindly into her lap, and was secured. A few hours afterwards, Madam Hare was carried out in

a basket to the vicinity of Wynnstey Park, and restored to her native wilds and a well-deserved freedom.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[446] MAYORAL HOSPITALITY 70 YEARS AGO.

The particulars here printed of a MAYOR OF CHESTER'S FEAST given on January 1, 1808, will, I hope, be held sufficiently *apropos* to deserve insertion in the New Year's Day No. of THE SHEAF. It shows, if nothing more, how game pies and politics were made to assimilate at Chester in our grandfathers' days. The account here transcribed comes from a "Grosvenor" source; but the *Courant* of that day gave a different and, it must be admitted, somewhat ill-natured version of our Earl-Major's civic Feast.

"Friday last, New Year's Day, the Right Hon. EARL GROSVENOR, Mayor of this City, gave his second grand Dinner at the Exchange, nearly similar to that on the 5th November last.

"The only material alteration in the bill of fare was a large CHRISTMAS PIE, instead of the Baron of Mutton. The former contained three geese, three turkeys, seven hares, twelve partridges, a ham, and a leg of veal, the whole when baked weighing 154lb. This Pie particularly attracted the attention of every person present, being allowed by all to be the greatest curiosity ever seen, and the decorations in paste, viz., his Lordship's, Lady Grosvenor's, and the City Arms, particularly neat. The Pie was made, and the whole of the ornaments were designed and executed, by Miss Turner, whose taste and judgment met universal admiration.

"About six o'clock, 200 sat down to dinner, which was unusually well served up by Mrs. Turner, the city cook. After the cloth was removed, and a number of loyal and patriotic toasts had been given, LORD BELGRAVE (afterwards second Marquis of Westminster), who honoured the company with his presence, on his health being drunk, returned thanks in so polite and becoming a manner, as would have done honour to manhood, and made a pleasing impression on those who heard him. [The young Lord was then only in his fourteenth year.] General Grosvenor, M.P. for the city, Admiral Hervey, and a number of gentlemen of the county and neighbourhood, honoured the company with their presence."

It was the fashion in those days, and the rule might with propriety be followed occasionally now, for the Head of the House of Eaton to accept and serve the Mayorality of Chester. GENERAL GROSVENOR was the immediate successor, in 1809, of his noble relative in our Civic Chair.

T. HUGHES.

[447] GEORGE CUITT.

This distinguished artist lived for many years at Chester, where some of his family connections still reside. On the opening of the New Year of 1821, his entire Collection of Drawings and Sketches in Sepia and Pencil came into the market; and many of them, being without signature, have been variously described as Turners, De Wints, Girtins, Coxes, Varleys, &c., according to

the judgment, or rather want of it, of their later holders. The Advertisement of the Sale, which appeared in both the Chester papers of that day, ran as follows:

"January 3, 1821.

MR. CUITT'S COLLECTION.

Several Hundred Exquisite

DRAWINGS

in Pencil and Sepia

which Mr. Cuitt has devoted twelve years of professional labours in executing, and from which no selections have been made.

MESSRS. JONES AND BAILEY

Beg leave most respectfully to announce that they WILL OFFER BY AUCTION

In the Large Room, Bolland's Court, Chester, on Wednesday the 3d of January 1821, and following day the above unique collection.

As the whole are positively to be sold without reserve, Amateurs and Lovers of the Fine Arts have now an opportunity such as rarely occurs of possessing some of the highly interesting productions of a celebrated master.

A few BOOKS of PRINTS by CALLOT, DELLA BELLA, WEIRÖTTER, &c., collected by Mr. Cuitt, will also be offered to the notice of the company.

To be viewed on Tuesday previous to the sale.

Sale to begin each morning at 11 o'clock precisely."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[448] MOW COP DIALECT. (Sixth Paper.)

BRAT. A child's pinafore, usually taking pretty much the form of a cloak, but having the opening behind instead of before.

"For ne' had they but a sheet

Which that they mighten wrap them in a-night,
And a bratt to walken in by daylight,
They would them sell, and spend it on this craft."

—Chaucer, *C. T.*, *The Canon's Yeoman's Tale*.

The word *bratt* in the foregoing passage signifies a coarse cloak.

FLIT. To remove from one place of residence to another.

"The farmer vert packs up his beds and chairs,
And all his household stuff; and with his boy
Betwixt his knees, his wife upon the tilt,
Sets out, and meets a friend who hails him,
'What!

You're *flitting*!' 'Yes, we're *flitting*,' says the
ghost

(For they had pack'd the thing among the beds.)

'Oh well,' says he, 'you *flitting* with us too—
Jack, turn the horses' heads and home again.'"

—Tennyson, *Walking to the Mail*.

"The widow '*flitted*,' that is, changed her place of abode, as the discreditable and godless amongst our population are perpetually doing."

—*The Streets and Lanes of a City*, Reminiscences of Amy Dutton.

JIBB. Jerk.

"She's gien me mony a jibt au' fleg."

—Burns.

OLD ANCIENT (Old Ancient), is an expression often used here. Thus, an old church or castle is usually spoken of as an *Old Ancient* building, reminding one of a passage in one of Lover's amusing Irish novels, in which Phelim O'Flanagan describes Rory O'More's ancestors as his "*owld anshint anshithers in the owld anshint times.*"

BRITCHER, or BRITCHY. Brittle.

LOFFER. Lower. Th' loffer eend.

RETCH. To stretch, to exaggerate. The man who declared he would rather be hanged in the village of G— than live for ever in the adjoining village of B— may be said to have *retched* it.

SEAK. To ooze, to leak. In Chambers's *Dictionary* "seip," to ooze, is given as a Scottishism.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[449] A CHESTER CURE AT LATHOM SPA.

A few weeks ago, we quoted a few paragraphs from Dr. Borlase's pocket volume, "*Lathom Spaw*, in Lancashire, with some Remarkable Cases, and Cures effected by it." London, Robert Clavel, 1670:—the same publisher who, three years afterwards, issued to the world Sir Peter Leycester's [Cheshire] *Historical Antiquities*. We then shewed that, though in a slightly different channel, this Lancashire Spa competed for popularity with the famed St. Winifred's Well.

We return to the subject now, in order to record a Chester cure (if we may fairly call it so) attributed by the good Doctor to this Lathom Spa; which, he says earlier in the book, was commonly known as the Maulden Well. He gives his case thus:—

"JOHN THORP of CHESTER [grandson of that loyal and gallant Alderman, of whom a Memoir has already appeared in *THE SHEAF*], 16 years old, having been for several years, if not since his birth, exceedingly scrophulous in his face, arms, body, and legs; so violent there, as to have eight bones at once took thence, underwent all usual means for his recovery; but finding little good thence. The year 1669, the humour broke forth very violently in his arm, thighs, and back, * * * extremely distempering his whole body, sufficient indeed, and more than sufficient, to make him an object of great charity. Which the Earl of Derby considering, ordered (about the midst of July last) that he should be brought with much care to this SPAW from CHESTER; of which he drank freely, it agreeing (after two or three daies) excellently with him, working * * * very kindly, so kindly as after six weeks stay there, observing an orderly course both as to Physick and diet, his ulcers mended to admiration, without any other application whatsoever than the SPAW water. His pains, before intolerable, vanished; his strength (near exoluted) incresed; and his mind dejected grew serene; so that at this day he stands a Miracle of Restoration,

being able to walk cheerfully, that lately could not move without anguish and complaints; though I suspect (unless the next Spaw season perfects his recovery) his distemper hath so impoverished Nature, that he will at length fall under his Complaints, through the decay of some parts, without the recovery of which Nature cannot well subsist, though at present exceedingly relieved."

We are unaware how long this much-lauded SPA retained its held on the popular faith. The following paragraph, however, from Baines' *History of Lancashire*, Vol. III., p. 256, may be quoted as a parting reference. Writing of our Chester doctor's enthusiasm about this "Lathom Spaw," which he describes as a medicinal well, within a quarter of a mile of Lathom House, and opines that time, the mother of experience, will commend it to posterity; "but," says Baines, "time has so entirely disappointed the doctor's anticipations, that the 'Spaw' itself, with all its virtues, has been irretrievably lost."

EDITOR.

Queries.

[450]

THE PRETENDER.

I have met with many scraps relating to the supporters of the PRETENDER in Flintshire and Denbighshire, but none of greater local interest than one story related by MR. WILLETT in his *History of Hawarden*. One Madam Haytrell saw SIR JOHN GLYNNE, Bart., and RECTOR WILLIAMS upon their knees, on the Bowling-green, and overheard them drink the health of the Pretender. The busy-body forthwith reported the transaction to the authorities in London, and "a King's messenger was speedily despatched to apprehend the offending parties," who were marched off to town, and there kept in custody for two months. The writer adds that when they were brought before the Privy Council no evidence was tendered against them, and they were then discharged. MR. WILLIAMS was inducted to the living of HAWARDEN in 1741, on the presentation of Sir John Glynnne; and the Baronet died in 1777. There must be some better account of this transaction than is given by WILLETT; and I have mentioned these dates in the hope of some of your readers may be induced to investigate and report upon it.

MONTALT.

[451] ANCIENT SUNDIALS OF CHESHIRE.

There are, no doubt, many ancient SUNDIALS in the Churchyards and on certain Public Buildings of Cheshire. I do not think these useful articles are too fully described in any books relating to Cheshire, but *THE SHEAF* is a central home where they can be fully brought to light. Particulars of their position, character, date, and inscriptions (if any), would, I think, be well worth recording in your columns. J. H.

Replies.

[452] CHESHIRE OAK TREES.

[No. 234, 391.—Aug. 28, Nov. 17.]

As the Flint waters are tributary to the Dee, the CHESHIRE SHEAF may very properly record a Flintshire Oak.

In the Iscoyd portion of the Parish of Malpas, is a farm called "Broad Oak," of some historical interest as the inheritance and birthplace of the Henry family. The old house has long since disappeared, but near it once grew an oak from which, doubtless, it derived its name, and which is thus referred to in Matthew Henry's Diary:—

"1710-11.—May 2. Heard from Broad-Oak that Mr. Hanmer has cut down the lesser of the great Oaks. I wrote to him about it." "May 5. I hear Mr. Hanmer when my letter was brought in, would not receive it or read it, but ordered it to be burnt, and the great Oak to be cut down, though he had promised Mr. Key it should not. I would learn to take wrong. I have reason to think he could not justly do it." "May 14. The broad Oak was a week in falling."

I may add that the farm has since continued to be, and is now, possessed by members of the Henry family.

B. LL. V.

[453] ODARD'S SWORD.

[No. 271.—September 25.]

The "*Ladye Shakerley*" (by one of the House of Egerton) which I presume to be synonymous with Mr. Peter Shakerley's Manuscript of the "Wars between King and Parliament," supplies, I think, to some extent, the information required by "PURSUIVANT." As a sort of addenda, it mentions the names of about One Hundred Loyal Gentlemen belonging to the County, one of whom was a DUTTON, of Dutton:—

"And of the direct line of the DUTTONS or DUTTON,—a most ancient family, descended from HUDARD, which came over to this land with King William the Conqueror, and to whom Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, gave the lands of Dutton (Hudard having before the gift seated himself there)—should I have had honourable mention to make, had there been any remaining to name; but there is but one only daughter and heiress, married to the Lord Kilmorey as her second husband. One of her daughters is wedded unto the LORD BYRON, Governor of Chester, who with his Six Brothers have all distinguished themselves for the King; and she, this LADY BYRON (mark you, being a Dutton of Dutton by her Mother) is a person of such comely carriage, and presence, handsomeness, and sweet disposition, that scarce will she leave her equal behind her, when she departeth out of this world, which all must do.

"The Ladye Kilmorey survived her second husband. Her eldest son, Lord Kilmorey, compounded for his Estate; and he and Mr. Thomas Needham, his Brother, which had been took prisoner before at Wem, were both took prisoners as before said, by Lambert, at Winnington Bridge.

"The *Sword of Hudard*, the Ancestor of the Duttons, is at this day in the custody of Ellinour, the Ladye Kilmorey, having passed from heir to heir as an heirloom."

Lady Kilmorey (according to Leycester) was first married in 1609 to Lord Gerard, at the early age of 13; and she survived Lord Kilmorey (her second husband), dying in the year 1665.

I am sorry I cannot give a description of the SWORD, which must certainly be a very ancient weapon.

The DUTTONS of Hatton were another branch of this family, and I have noticed a monument in Waverton Church "to the memory of Sir Peter Dutton, of Hatton, Justice of the Peace for Cheshire, died August 12th, 1669."

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

[454] BRIDGE HOUSE, CHESTER.

[No. 376.—November 20.]

This fine house formerly belonged to Sir John Williams, of Bodellwyddan, and was his town house in the days when Chester was considered "The Metropolis of North Wales."

There is another old house lower down well worth the notice of the antiquary,—the "Boarding School Yard," as it is now called,—let out of late years into small tenements, but having good oak staircase, chimney pieces, &c. Here the young ladies of former days were at school, previous to their going to London. An aunt of mine was there at the same time with the late Dowager Lady Westminster (Miss Egerton), and many others of the county.

Newton.

H.

[455] COLONEL ROGER WHITLEY.

[No. 399.—Dec. 3.]

The picture of Col. ROGER WHITLEY was not sold after my father's death, and is now hanging on my staircase here, and his brother's also.

Perhaps this may be as much information as C. A. S. may require.

CHARLES W. SPENCER STANHOPE,

Vicar of Crowton.

Crowton House, Northwich.

[456] ABSENCE OF MIND IN ARTISTS.

[No. 400.—Dec. 4.]

Pistyll Rhaiadr, the waterfall so curiously painted at Chirk Castle, is on the river Rhaiadr, three miles from Llanrhaiadr, and not on the Ceiriog, as "G. A." supposes. I have heard two versions of the story, which I jotted down (as follows) in the *Gossiping Guide to Wales*:—

"The mention of Pistyll Rhaiadr suggests a 'mem' to tourists who have leisure. In many respects it is the finest waterfall in Wales, and may be reached from Oswestry in 16 miles, or from Llanfyllin in less. And here I cannot resist a good story about Pistyll Rhaiadr. A Welshman suggested to a foreign artist who was making a picture of it, that there were "ships [sheep] at the bottom." Whereupon the artist introduced a small fleet and a waving sea at the foot of a waterfall about fifty or sixty miles from the nearest point of ocean. There is another version of this story; which is, that an English gentleman hinted to the foreign artist that the introduction of a few sheep would improve the picture; on which the artist said, "Ver veil, I will put you some *sheeps* in it;" which he did with a vengeance! The picture is the property of the Myddelton Biddulph family, and hangs in the gallery of Chirk Castle, near Oswestry."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

JANUARY 8, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JAN. 9.—Tom Paine burnt in effigy at Chester Cross.....	1793
" 10.—The <i>Chester Herald</i> Paper discontinued ..	1813
" 13.—William de Merahton, 18th Abbot of Chester, died	1386
" 14.—George Lloyd confirmed 8th Bishop of Chester.....	1605

J. H.

Original Documents.

[457] MORE SOLDIERS FOR IRELAND.

The following Document, culled from the large collection preserved at the Chester Town Hall, when read in conjunction with others recently printed in *THE SHEAF*, will show in what a perpetual state of military ferment old Chester must have been in the days of the virgin Queen. LIVERPOOL was about that time gradually asserting itself in national affairs, and claiming its independence of the mother port of CHESTER. The star of the one was just then distinctly ascending, while the other was vainly struggling against its imminent and hopeless fate.

"Instructions given to James Ware, gent., being sent Downe to the Portes of Chester and Liverpool to provyde and set the Shippinge of Cth horse and vj Cth foote that are appoynted to be imbarqued at that porte.

"Whereas there are the number of 600 Soldiers Leuyed in sondry Counties of the Realme, and also 100 horses provyded by Sr Samuel Bagnall, knight, Collonell of those forces, that are sent at this present vnto Laughfoile in the Realme of Ireland; wch horse and foote are appoynted to be imbarqued at the porte of Chester or Leasurepoole, Helbree and Newkey: there is Choise made of yow to viewe the said horse and foote, and to see them imbarqued according to their instructions that are given yow for the p'formance of this s'uice.

"You shall see the horse shipped with that care as they may receave noe hurte, and soe many in en'y shippe as may Convenyently be transported.

"This Donne, yow must provyde the lyke shippinge for the other L'tie horse to be ready against the tyme they shall repaire thither, wch tyme yow shall learne by S'r Samuel Bagnall.

"Thos. Egerton	T. Buckhurst
C. S. Nottingham	W. Knowles
G. Hunsden	Ro. Cecyll
C. North	Jo. fortescue."

"This is a true Copie of soe much of the said instructions as concerneth the taking vpp and agreem't for the said Shippinge."

The signatures here attached give us quite a galaxy of Elizabethan statesmen, lawyers, and scholars, of whom any one generation of any country might fairly be proud.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[458] A CHESHIRE NAME ON A MIDLAND COUNTY BELL.

The manorial estate of Farthinghoe, co. Northampton, was purchased by SIR JOHN EGERTON, of Egerton and Oulton, co. Chester, Knight, very early in the 17th century. His son, SIR ROWLAND EGERTON, knighted by James I. at Whitehall, 9 March, 1610, was created a Baronet, April 5, 1617; and spent the latter part of his days at Farthinghoe, to the small satisfaction of WEBB, our county historian, who in the *Vale Royal*, p. 107, complains of the long absence from his Cheshire birth-place and estates "of such an ornament" to it as Sir Rowland. The baronet evinced his regard for his new home by, *inter alia*, the gift of a BELL to the parish church of St. Michael at Farthinghoe. This Bell still remains in the tower of the church, which was repaired by his son Sir John Egerton, second baronet, in 1654.

The BELL, which is the second of a peal of five, bears the following inscription, as I find from Mr. T. North's lately published work on *The Church Bells of Northamptonshire*:—

**"S' ROWLAND EGBERTON KNIGHT AND
BARONET 1629."**

Besides the inscription, the arms of Sir Rowland are cast upon the Bell, as follows:—"Between three pheons, sable, a lion rampant, gules." Crest:—"On a wreath, three arrows, two in saltire, one in pale, sable, banded with a ribbon, gules." Sir Rowland died suddenly on the 3rd of October, 1646, and was buried at Farthingoe; where his widow Bridget, daughter of Arthur, Lord Grey de Wilton, K.G., followed him in less than two years.

T. HUGHES.

[459] MINE HOST AT NANTWICH IN 1738.

I send for insertion in *THE SHEAF*, the announcement by a Nantwich Innkeeper of his "change of residence," as an example of the wording of such advertisements 140 years ago.

"This is to acquaint all Gentlemen, Ladies, and Others, that Mr. RICHARD GOULDSMITH Innkeeper, at the Sign of the GRIFIN in NAMPTWICH in Cheshire, is now lately Removed to a very Good large Commodious Stabling [*sic*] for that purpose; it being at the Sign of the CROWN AND SCEPTER in the above-said Town of Namptwich; Where all Gentlemen, Ladies, and Others will be kindly Entertained, both for themselves, and Horses, with good Attendance and care therein; also at the abovesaid place, all Gentlemen, and Others, may at any time be furnished with any Number of Horses to Ride post, or other ways, together with a Careful Guide for that Purpose. Also at the same place there is a large Inner Court for Standing of Coaches, &c."—*Adams' Weekly Courant*, April 5-12, 1738.

GEORGINA F. JACKSON.

White Friars.

[Being only slightly acquainted with Nantwich, we are unable to say whether "The Crown and Scepter" still maintains its position as a first-class house. It may well be, however, that after the vicissitudes of a century and a half, the fates have not left unharmed this once thriving hostelry.—EDITOR.]

[460] THE SHERIFFS OF CHESTER.

The MAYORS of Chester, as so called, commenced their reign in the 13th century, and their successors thus rejoice in a pedigree stretching over six hundred years. The SHERIFFS of the city, and there were always two of them—the King's Sheriff and the Earl's—can be proved to have existed for eight centuries at least, for they are specifically referred to in Domesday under the name of prefects.

In mediæval and later times the King's Sheriff was named by the Court of Aldermen as representing the Crown, while the Earl's Sheriff was elected in open Assembly by the popular voice. The latter thus came to be called the "Popular Sheriff" to distinguish him from his corporate or close-borough colleague; just as, in our modern vestries, we have the rector's warden and the people's warden constituted in very much a similar fashion.

Almost the last, I think indeed the very last, contest for the dignity of the People's Sheriff was in 1833, only three years before the Municipal Reform Act played fatal havoc with our ancient Corporation. The successful candidate was a WEAVER, and a brother of the WEAVERS' GUILD; so that at the next meeting of that Company after the election, viz.: Nov. 2nd, 1833, the brethren assembled placed the following congratulatory minute on their books:—

"2 Nov., 1833.

"They have also much pleasure in recording that Mr. Joseph Ridgway (a Member of this Company) was Elected popular Sheriff of this City on Saturday the 26th day of October 1833, after a Contest with Mr. Thomas Ellis, Plumber, &c., of Commonhall Street. Ridgway 354, Ellis 215,—Majority 139."

From 1833 to 1878 no member of the Company had reached the shrieval dignity; but on the 9th of November last MR. JOHN ROBERTSON, free citizen, and Alderman of the WEAVERS' Company, was elected to the office, which his old master, Mr. Ridgway, so gallantly won for himself 45 years before.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Queries.

[461] LOYAL RUNCORN VOLUNTEERS.

On the 4th July, 1818, the Colours of the LOYAL RUNCORN AND WESTON VOLUNTEER INFANTRY were deposited in the Parish Church of Runcorn. Can any of your correspondents inform me if they are there now, or, if not, what has become of them?

C. THORNTON.

Replies.

[462] CAPTAIN THOMAS SANDFORD.

[Nos. 211, 417.—Aug. 14, Dec. 11.]

The scrap you have given us in the *SHEAF* relating to Captain Sandford is very interesting; for he had descended from a very brave and a very loyal Salopian race, who from the time of Richard the Second had dwelt at Sandford, not very far from Whitchurch. Nicholas de Sandford was High Sheriff of Shropshire, 9th of the same king; and his representative, Francis Sandford, paid a composition of four hundred and fifty-nine pounds for his reputed delinquency in the Civil War.

I conclude we may henceforward take it as established that Thomas Sandford was born at Chester; but why born here remains to be shown. So early as the

15th of January, 1643, we meet with him as a Captain of Firelocks in front of Nantwich, and upon the 22nd of November in the same year he is at Broad-lane Hall, near Hawarden, threatening vengeance upon all Parliamentarians who declined to submit themselves to the King's Majesty: so that he must have been born long before the Civil War troubles began. Lord Byron, who was in command of the royal forces in the neighbourhood of Nantwich, had endeavoured to induce Sir George Booth to give up the town to the King: and Mr. Platt, in his "History of Nantwich," says,—“The garrison received during their time with Lord Byron the following letter from Captain Sandford,” showing that he was then engaged in the Royalist army:—

“To the Officers, Soldiers, and Gentlemen of Nantwich.”

“Your drum can inform you *Acton Church* is no more a prison, but now free for honest men to do their devotions therein; wherefore be persuaded from your incredulity and resolve. God will not forsake his anointed. Let not your zeal in a bad cause dazzle your eyes any longer, but wipe away your vain conceits, that have too long led you into blind errors. Loath I am to undertake the trouble of persuading you into obedience, because your erroneous opinions do most violently oppose reason among you; but, however, if you love your town accept of quarter; and if you regard your lives, work your safeties by yielding your town to the *Lord Byron* for his Majesty's use. You now see my battery is fix'd, from whence *fire shall eternally visit you*, to the terror of your old and females, and consumption of your thatcht houses. Believe me, gentlemen, I have laid by my former delays, and am now resolved to batter, burn, storm, and destroy you. Do not wonder that I write unto you, having officers in chief above me: 'tis only to advise you, because I have some friends among you, for whose safety I wish you to accept of my Lord Byron's conditions. He is gracious and will charitably consider of you. Accept of these as a summons, that you forthwith surrender the town, and by that testimony of your fealty to his Majesty, you may obtain favour. My firelocks you know have done strange feats both by day and night; and hourly we will not fail of our private visits to you. You have not as yet received mine alarms, wherefore expect suddenly to hear from my battery and approaches before the *Welsh-Row*.

THOMAS SANDFORD, Captain of Firelocks.”

“This 15th of January, 1643.”

It is evident enough from the history that Sandford and his men were spoken of as *Irish Papists*, and the gallant officer, well knowing how a prejudice of this sort must work him ill, wisely adds a postscript to his letter thus:—

“P.S.—Gentlemen, let these resolve your jealousies concerning our religion: I vow by the faith of a Christian I know not one Papist in our army; and as I am a gentleman, we are no *Irish*, but true born *Englishmen* and real Protestants born and bred. Pray mistake us not, but receive us

in your fair esteem. I knew we intend *loyalty* to his Majesty, and will be no other than faithful in his service. This, gentlemen, believe from yours,—

THOMAS SANDFORD.”

These kind words counted for nothing, for before the month was out the *Royalists* had been routed, and we may suppose Sandford had managed to escape; for *Hemingway* gives us the following letter from him, which, under date of 22nd November, 1643, he had addressed to Sir Michael Ernley and Major General Gibson:—

“Gentlemen, I presume you very well know, or have heard, of my condition and disposition, and that I neither give nor take quarter. I am now with my firelocks, who never yet neglected opportunity to correct rebels, ready to use you as I have done the Irish, but loth I am to spill my countrymen's blood; wherefore by these I advise you to your fealty and obedience to his Majesty, and to show yourselves faithful subjects by delivering the castle into my hands for his Majesty's use; in so doing you shall be received into mercy, &c. Otherwise, if you put me to the least trouble or loss of blood to force you, expect no quarter for man woman, or child. I hear you have some of our late Irish army in your company; they very well know me, and that my firelocks used not to parley. Be not unadvised, but think of your liberty, for I vow, all hopes of relief are taken from you, and our intents are not to starve you, but to batter and storm you, and then hang you all, and follow the rest of that rebel crew. I am no bread and cheese rogue, but was ever a loyalist, and will be while I can write or name.

THOMAS SANDFORD, Capt. of Firelocks,

“I expect your speedy answer this Tuesday night, at Broad-lane Hall, where I now am your near neighbour.”

“To the Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Hawarden Castle, and his consorts there.”

In this instance the Royalists were successful; for Hawarden Castle was delivered up to them on the 2nd of December, and then the main body of this army marched into Cheshire and took Beeston Castle.

With these facts in possession, it is manifest we are wanting some additional information about Captain Sandford, before we convey his body to St. Werburgh's for burial, and I shall be glad if some of your correspondents can carry the story on to the end.

Glan-Aber.

E. G. S.

P.S.—Should not November, 1643, be 1642-3? I have a strong impression that Captain Sandford was killed at Beeston, but these points I leave to others.

[463] THE LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF CHESHIRE.

[No. 331.—October 30.]

In Mr. HOLLAND's most valuable paper on this subject I find he has omitted to mention one remarkable local weight, viz., the *dish* of butter, by which all fresh

butter used to be sold in the Chester markets, the weight being 24 ounces, or 1½lbs. I believe the term is restricted to Cheshire, and probably to the neighbourhood of Chester. It is not alluded to by MAJOR E. LEIGH, in his "Peculiarities" of the County; but at a subsequent date was inserted in his *Glossary*, it having been omitted by Wilbraham. It is not mentioned in Halliwell's *Dictionary*, nor in any other *Glossary* with which I am acquainted, with the exception just named.

Then again potatoes—I speak of 13 years since—were sold by the *measure*. If purchased at the seed shops for planting, the weight was 60lbs. Bought in the market, and for edible purposes, 84lbs. was the weight, whereas 90lbs. were usually obtained at the farm houses.

I am informed by a gentleman residing in the vicinity of Northwich that a measure of oats means 45lbs. to an ordinary customer, and 52lbs. to a dealer. And, that cheese is usually reckoned at the rate of 112lbs. to the hundredweight, whereas a factor claims 120lbs., the old "long hundred."

Again, as two sheaves of corn go to the batten (or truss) of threshed straw, the *thrave* of the latter contains as much as two thraves of the former. This may perhaps throw some light on the following explanation of the term as thus given in Wilbraham's *Glossary*. "Thrave is generally twelve, but sometimes twenty-four sheaves of corn."

The Cheshire *acre* is equal to rather more than 2½ ordinary acres (the accurate amount expressed in decimals is 2.115.)

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[164] THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR.

[Nos. 364, 428.—Nov. 13, Dec. 18.]

The *Chester Chronicle* of Feb. 23, 1787, had the following bit of satire on the aspirations of the City Crier on behalf of his Majesty the King and the Right Worshipful the Mayor:—

"When ministers of state, and those who fill the highest departments in life, are charged with a want of consistency, it can be a matter of little wonder to find the same imperfection in one of the humblest officers of a Corporation. An instance of this occurred on Shrove Tuesday last, in this city: The gentleman who daily offers up his orisons for the salvation of the King and our worthy chief-magistrate, or (in other words) the city bell-man, after proclaiming a very just and exemplary order—'that no person or persons must presume to throw at, or fight cocks on that day'—concluded his oration with this humane notice: 'That at two o'clock in the afternoon there would be baited, by dogs, a large badger!' And immediately after the latter personage (the badger) followed—'God save the King, and the Right Worshipful the Mayor of this city.'"

Mind the italics, Mr. Editor; our predecessors in this line always scored a point by the use of them.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[465] THE TWO NORTHGATE BRIDGES, CHESTER.

[No. 361.—Nov. 13.]

The Query of J. R. D. opens out a curious point of local history of the last century. The Act for making the Canal from Chester to Nantwich was passed in 1771; and the fact was celebrated in the city with illuminations, bell-ringing, and other usual modes of rejoicing.

The original intention was to carry the "cut," as it is locally termed, [rather to the northward of Gorse Stacks and Canal Street, and was contracted for on that line. Just however before the work was actually commenced, the Directors vacillated in their judgment, and asked the contractor to adopt the southern limit of their deviating powers, and so carry the Canal close under and parallel with the City Walls. The original line involved continuous and heavy excavation through the sandstone rock; and the contractor, feeling that the question of a few yards either way could make no very great difference to him, accepted the proposition of the directors. Judge the surprise of all concerned, when it was found that the new line actually took the course of the ancient Roman fosse, excavated some 1500 years before, and for long ages filled up and made solid ground! The result was that the contractor made a considerable fortune by his undertaking.

And now this change of front had the curious effect of severing the Northgate Gaol from the Hospital Chapel of St. John, between which, many fathoms down, yawned the deep abyss of the Canal; and the services thitherto held in the Chapel could no longer be attended there by the prisoners of the Gaol. For some time the chaplain held special services in the Gaol itself; but this began to be felt too great a tie upon him, and an inconvenient arrangement in a prison at the best of times strait and ill-adapted. Accordingly Mr. TURNER of Hawarden, the architect, was called in, and he designed a BRIDGE to reconnect the Gaol and opposite Chapel as theretofore. And so we find, in the Assembly Book of the Corporation, the following Order under date

"July 30, 1793. That Mr. Turner be paid the sum of Twenty Pounds out of the City's Treasury, on his erecting a Stone Arch over the Canal from the Northgate Garden to the Blue Coat Hospital, with an iron railing thereon."

In 1807-8, the City Gaol near the Infirmary was brought into requisition, and any immediate or further use for the smaller of the two Northgate Bridge; ceased. But still, seventy years afterwards, and habilitated as of old, it maintains its picturesque grounds though I am unaware that it has ever been actually crossed during the last half-century.

T. HUGHES.

JANUARY 15, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JAN. 15.—Roger Asper, Dean of St. John's, Chester, died	1470
„ 16.—“A mighty great wind!” much damage done upon Saltney	1551
„ 17.—Lord Belgrave's Birthday Dinner at Chester	1813
„ 18.—Captain Sandford slain at Nantwich ...	1643
„ 19.—Warrington mail robbed at Dunham ...	1796
„ 20.—William Cleaver, D.D., consecrated Bishop of Chester	1788
„ 21.—Dreadful storm of wind at Chester	1802

J. H.

Original Documents.

[466] CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY.

When the axe of the headsman deprived old England of that brave and loyal subject, James, Earl of Derby, it was but a heritage of semi-poverty and woe that fell to the immediate lot of his son and successor. Hunted about on all hands by the dominant faction; robbed from day to day of this and that portion of his patrimony; forced, at points where robbery would have been too barefaced, to sign away his estates, under the mask of ground-rents and long leases,—CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY, was in a sorry plight as the days of the Interregnum drew gloomily on.

The following Letter, the original of which I regard as a precious private possession, indicates pretty clearly to what straits His Lordship was driven to maintain his and his family's position amid the general ruin that overshadowed them. His correspondent, Col. Robert Whitley, bore a name illustrious in later Cheshire history,—to which, however, in this particular article, further allusion need not be made.

“S'r,

Since my departure out of Wales, I was (from thence) inform'd of an omission (by what mistake I know not, vnlesse by th' vnacquaintednesse of Turner with the Gentrie of y'r Countie, and it may be some forgettfullnesse of the names he was to insert), and that noe small one, of your name in the Commission; the trouble whereof I hope you will with as much generositie and good will accept now, as they did then, and graunt me a continuance of your fauours in reaching forth your hand, with the rest of those noble persons in that Commission, for the support of a decaying family. W'oh if, by the blessing of God vpon yours and theire endeauours it may recouee an eleuation, it shall then be in a con-

dition to returne thankes, be serviceable to you and all its freinds, and soe auoid that horridde and hainous sinne of ingratitude.

“I shall not further for the present trouble you, but onely with this protestation, that none cane be more sensible of a fauour recei'd then myself and those from you, and none more really desires to serue you,

“S'r, then Your aff'te freind and seruant

C. DERBY.”

“Lathom, 25th of March, 1653.”

“Folded, sealed with his lordship's heraldic ring, and addressed

“For

Coll: Robert Whitley
At Hawarden.”

Scant justice—even at the Restoration, when most of the leading Royalists floated on the popular wave back to their old homes again—scant justice, if not rank ingratitude, was the portion allotted by Charles II. to his noble namesake of DERBY. But, despite the loss of many a fair domain (such as HAWARDEN for instance, where the legal meshes of the stranger were knit too cannily and tightly to be disturbed), the STANLEYS of to-day are as great and as powerful as were ever their sires of yore. It may be pretty safely asserted, too, that the rent-roll of the present illustrious peer is far away greater than was ever before known in the history of his proud family.

T. HUGHES.

[467] PENANCE FOR DEFAMATION.

Among the many terrors to evil sayers and doers with which old Chester at one time swarmed, the ECCLESIASTICAL COURT and its illassorted penalties held a prominent place. It had its own stern officials, its own rigid code, its own darksome prison. Its judge condemned slanderers to penance, martyrs to the stake; and the Sheriffs of the City or County, as the case might be, had to see execution done, without liberty of appeal or evasion. There the defamer of other men, the openly immoral of life, the free-thinker in religion, the profane swearer, nay even the unfit and unlicensed schoolmaster, were mercoilessly arraigned, and there paid the certain penalty of their misdeeds.

The following Record, found recently among the Sheriffs' Papers of Chester city, will afford an example of the means adopted to bring defiant offenders to justice. The Sheriffs of the city, as we shall see, were called upon and compelled to give the *coup-de-grace* to a wretched wight whose tongue had proved a trifle too large for his slanderous mouth.

“GEORGE THE THIRD, by the Grace of GOD of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth,—To the Sheriffs of the City of CHESTER, Greeting. Whereas EDMUND, by Divine permission, Lord Bishop of Chester, hath Signified to us that ABEL WARD, clerk Master of Arts, the lawful Surrogate of the Reverend and

Worshipfull SAMUEL PEPLOE, rightly, lawfully, and judicially proceeding by our Ordinary Authority, did Pronounce THOMAS WILLIAMS, of the Parish of Saint Oswald, in the City and Diocese of Chester, Husbandman, to be Contumacious for his manifest Contempt of the Law and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, in not appearing before our said Vicar General, his lawfull Surrogate in our CONSISTORY COURT within the Cathedral Church of CHESTER, at a certain time in that behalf prefixed, and now past, and extracting in due form of Law a certain Order or Declaration of PENANCE heretofore enjoined him to be performed by our definitive Sentence or final Decree given and pronounced against him in a certain cause or business of speaking certain Scandalous, Reproachfull, and defamatory words of and against Ann Morpsett, the Wife of Edward Morpsett, of the same parish, Husbandman, namely, that she was a ———; and also for not paying or causing to be paid to the Party of the said Ann Morpsett the Sum of Six Pounds of good and lawfull Money of Great Britain for her expences in the said cause or business, and by the said Surrogate lawfully Taxed, together with the sum of Fifteen Shillings and eightpence of her money for the fees of Two Monitions issued against him for the payment thereof on or before the twenty-fourth day of April last, And in pain of this his Contempt, &c., to be Excommunicated with the greater Excommunication; and on the third Day of May last did cause him, the said Thomas Williams, &c., to be Excommunicated by a Schedule in writing, read by a Priest; and to be publicly denounced and declared so to be in the face of the congregation assembled in time of divine service in the Parish Church of St. Oswald, on Sunday, the fourth day of May aforesaid. Yet this notwithstanding, the said Thomas Williams, for 40 days past since the said Excommunication, both persisted, &c., and doth obstinately persist under the same, wickedly despising his exclusion from the communion of the Church, to the great danger of his own Soul and Evil Example of others. And whereas the Ecclesiastical Law, &c., have it not in their power to proceed further against him; Wherefore we command you to apprehend and imprison the said Thomas Williams by his Body, and until he shall have fully Satisfied the Holy Church as well touching the Contempt as the Injury done thereto by him, And what you shall do in the premises certify to our Justices of Chester, at Chester, upon the first day of the next Sessions for the County of Chester, at Chester, &c. Witness ourself at Chester, the Sixth Day of December, in the Seventh year of our Reign (1767).

SALUSBURY BREKETON.

E. BAXTER."

The dread of the "white sheet" had begun to loose its grip on the popular mind, even in Charles the First's days, as our local annals curiously prove to us; though there have been one or two examples of its use within our own times that were, as the petrel's visits, only presaging the certain storm. A few years only passed,

and the ECCLESIASTICAL COURT, with its clammy pains, penalties, and imprisonments, vanished finally from view, never in our days to reappear. G. T.

Notes.

[468] A GERMAN DOCTOR AT CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

In 1868, Heinrich Rohlf, a German physician, then on a professional tour through England, paid a visit to Chester, and, in company with a local adept in the healing art, inspected the Infirmary, Cathedral and other objects of interest. I pass over the chatty and often amusing details of social life, as it presented itself to the good doctor during his brief stay in Chester; selecting for THE SHEAF only a graphic paragraph or two relating to his experiences at St. Werburgh's. The more local of your readers will have no difficulty, I imagine, in identifying the *cicerone* who piloted the two doctors over the sacred edifice.

"The theological library of the Cathedral," he says, "enjoys a great reputation. Our conductor was a very original man; he made small witty remarks about everything he showed us: a great bristly peruke covered his almost four-cornershaped head, which stood to the rest of his body out of all proportion. His twinkling gray eyes sparkled under the extraordinary prominent eyebrows: his back finished in a curve, and his speech was so rapid that we could hardly follow him, even in his preacher-like, pathetically delivered description. While we were in the library, he suddenly seized me by the arm, saying, 'Now will I lead you to your Fatherland!' At first I really thought that reason had left our unhappy *cicerone*, and that the idea had occurred to him to fly with me over the North Sea or the Channel; but the journey did not last long, for he suddenly halted me on my course, and I found myself standing before a great book-shelf, on which were Neander, Dörner, &c., and a crowd of other celebrated German theologians, all arranged in substantial bindings.

"The seats in the choir possess an especial characteristic which I have never before seen. The chief ones are so constructed that whoever sits on them is compelled to remain awake during the service; for if he falls asleep, he is sure to lean forward, and the result is that, by a mechanical arrangement, his seat gives way and, with a loud noise, he finds himself sitting a foot lower than he did originally!"

F. S. A.

[469] LETTER FROM THE REV. PETER COWPER, M.A., OF OVERLEIGH.

The following letter was written by the Rev. Peter Cowper to Thomas Kirkland, M.D., of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, an eminent physician and author,

who died in 1798. It is interesting, as it shows the habits of a Chester gentleman in 1773.

Mr. Cowper was the son of the Rev. John Cowper, of Overleigh, and was born in 1705. He was rector of Sutton, co. Derby, and was presented to the vicarage of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in 1729, by Francis Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon; which living he held until his death, when the Rev. John Prior, B.D., was presented by the same noble patron. Mr. Cowper died at Overleigh, unmarried, in October, 1782. (See "Halsby's Ormerod," Vol. I., page 875.)

"Dear Doctor,

"As You have long known my Constitution, I have taken ye freedom to give You an Account of My way of Living since my arrival at this place; if you do not approve of it be so obliging as to prescribe such alternatives as You think more salutary. I rise before seven, breakfast at 8, take Horse for Chester when Tea is over, make a few running Visits to particular Friends, take a Walk upon the Walls, return about one, sit down to a good dish of fish at two, with a joyn't of Mutton, pudding or something else; remember all Our Acquaintance in a good Bottle of Port after dinner: Make a few amusing excursions in the afternoon, have a little Supper before eight; as my Brother and I have given sixty the Go by.

"I have prescribed the following Mixture:—*R. Aq. fontan. Sp. Vin. Gallici Vel Sacchar. Succ. Lim. Sacchar. alb. an. q. s. ad gratum. M. fiat Julep Sing. Nocte ante decubitus bibend.* We find this has its soporiferous effect (A Bon Repos).

"I am disappointed in not hearing from Mr. Clerke and Mr. Richards; I shall expect Them to dine with Us on Wednesday ye 15th instant. We'll stay till three. Be so kind as to make my best compliments to Gopeal; Mr. Hetherington shall have an epistle very soon. Mr. Prior's second Letter came two days [ago] for which I return thanks. The Servant waits to take ye Letter to the Post Office, so I can add no more but I am with sincere respects to all Friends, yours

to command

P. COWPER.

"I hope Mr. Clerke wou'd receive a Letter ye last post from Me. Pray tell Mr. Postell I desire He will treat Frank Palmer as He deserves. We have no Addams's nor any of that Gang to insult ye Church in y's part of ye World.

"Overleigh near Chester, 7ber. 6th. '73.

"Let me hear from Somebody at ye return of ye post."

Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Queries.

[470] THE COMBES, CO. CHESTER.

An ancient property so named. Where was it situate, and is it possible to identify it with any place now in existence? I see nothing of it on any of my

Cheshire maps, and yet a London antiquary declares that it must have been well known in the olden time. Of course, I do not refer to any modern mansion or villa arbitrarily so called. T. T.

[471] SIR WILLIAM BRERETON'S LETTERS.

At the first institution of the "Chetham Society," in 1844, it was proposed to publish, as one of its volumes, "*The Letters and Correspondence of Sir William Brereton, from the original MSS. in 5 vols. fo. in the British Museum.*" Forty years have nearly elapsed since the first promise of this valuable contribution to our local history, without its fulfilment; and I was some time since prompted, by my individual curiosity, to make direct inquiry at the British Museum for the above '5 vols. fo.,' but with a result conveying much disappointment. The following are the precise words of the reply to my application:—

"I can only find 3 fol. vols. of the *Brereton Correspondence*, and these do not embrace the year 1643, only part of 1642 and 1645. Certainly the other vols., did not come to the Museum. They were purchased, together with Dr. Gower's Collection for Cheshire, at Southgate's, at the sale of Fenn, the bookseller, in 1838. I cannot find any catalogue of the sale here, and I should think, had other vols. of the correspondence been in the sale, the Trustees would have bought them."

DR. ORMEROD, in his *History of Cheshire*, says at p. 327 of vol. iii.:—

"Dr. Gower, in the account of his Cheshire Collections, p. 43, mentions the journals of SIR W. BRERETON, in five folio volumes, written in a small hand, describing every circumstance that occurred during the four years he was General. The author [Ormerod] in 1819 had an opportunity of examining Dr. Wilkinson's Cheshire papers, among which Sir W. Brereton's Letters were preserved, being (with some very trifling exceptions) the only documents mentioned in Dr. Gower's prospectus which remained among the relics of his collections, and these had either been erroneously described, or a part of them had been otherwise disposed of. What remained were two folio volumes, containing copies of letters from Oct., 1645, to Jan., 1645-6."

Through the medium of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF it is perhaps not even yet too late to gain some tidings of the missing volumes. M.D.

[472] THE MUSTARD HOUSES, CHESTER.

Can any one who knows spare the time to inform me whereabouts in Chester the MUSTARD HOUSES were situate, and to whom they belonged? I imagine from the name that the manufacture of this pungent stimulant must have been at one time one of the staple industries of Chester. PEPPER STREET seems to smack of a similar origin; and I shall be glad if my Query should elicit any stray facts bearing on our Chester early commerce and manufactures, of which we seem to know only too little. CAMBRO-BRITON.

Replies.

[473] POLLUTION OF THE RIVER DEE. MASTER ROBERT FROST.

[Nos. 64, 96, 303.—May 29, June 12, Oct 9.]

Mr. FROST had, by the good offices of Bishop Smyth, gained the Archdeaconry of Stow and Winchester, Prebends at York and Lichfield, and the Mastership of St. John's Hospital in the latter city; also the Rectory of Thornhill, in Yorkshire, where he lies buried in a chapel of his own erection. He was alive in 1502, for we read in the records of Shrewsbury as follows:—

"In reward, given to [? a servant of] Master ROBERT FROST, Chancellor of the Lord Prince, bringing a buck to the bailiffs and burgesses, of the gift of the said Chancellor, 40d."

I see that you have made a warm corner in THE SHEAF for this gentleman, and I send you the foregoing straw to keep and make up his resting-place.

A SALOPIAN.

474] CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

[No. 182—July 31.]

Dr. BRUSHFIELD recently requested your readers to record any Cheshire cases of persons living to a great age that may have come under their observation. My acquaintance with those of Cheshire is small, but I send you the following Welsh examples for what they are worth:—

MARGARET UCH EVAN, of Llanberis, Carnarvonshire, died in 1801, aged 105.

HOWEL AP JORWERTH, who died near Llangefni, in Anglesey, about the close of the sixteenth century, was aged 105; and it is recorded that in 1581 his youngest child was two and a half years old, his eldest eighty-four. They were not by the same mother of course, for this gallant had married four wives.

RUTH WILLIAMS, of Shotton, was buried at Hawarden, Flintshire, May 1st, 1748, aged 112.

LLYWARCH HEN, a great Cambrian warrior and poet, who died about the year 670, was buried at Llanfair, in Merionethshire, aged 150.

SALLY CLARKE, of Hawarden, Flintshire, buried there, April 21, 1871, aged 104. GLADWYN.

[475] CHESHIRE FEMALE DWARF.

[No. 228.—Aug. 28.]

I have just met with another interesting reference to this local *lusus naturæ* of Charles the Second's days, and hasten to send it to you for insertion in THE SHEAF. It occurs in Ralph Thoresby's *Diary*, Vol. II., p. 417, from which we learn that the marvellous lady was then being exhibited at Leeds:—

"1683. June 12. Went to see a most wonderful woman, but about two feet long, though twenty-one years old. She was born in Bowden parish in

Cheshire, near the Lord Delamere's, and is said to have no bone in her but the head, though I suppose a mistake. This seems to me as prodigious as the monstrously great man."

The Note at No. 228 of THE SHEAF shows that the young lady was then (1667) claimed to be 18 inches high and 16 years old. In the sixteen years that elapsed between the two accounts she, no doubt, continued to be exhibited as a prodigy, and must consequently have enjoyed a good long term of paying popularity. But the curious thing is (and we have each of us no doubt met with the same sort of reckoning, even with ladies in the present day) that although, in 1667, this Miss Thumb's age was stated to be sixteen; yet, in 1683, although she had become six inches taller, she had only grown five years older during that solemn interval of sixteen years! A *lusus naturæ* truly! of which or whom I should like to know a little more; and especially as to whether any trace of her exists in the Registers of BOWDON, say between the years 1646-62. I should fancy that the parish clerk or his vicar of that day would scarcely omit to make some sort of reference to a young lady so "feverfully and wonderfully made." A. DAKYNE.

[476] CHESHIRE OAK TREES.

[Nos. 234, 391, 452.—Aug. 28, Nov. 17, Jan. 1.]

HANSHALL, in his *History of Cheshire*, p. 359, speaking of Hatton Hall, in the parish of Waverton, situated about six miles S.E. of Chester, says:—

"Some remarkably large oak trees, in a state of great decay, remain on the west side of the outer part of the moat."

The largest was 26 feet in circumference at the base, and, at the height of three feet from the ground, 20 feet. A friend of mine, a native of Hatton, informs me that there is only one remaining now; the last one removed was cut down some twelve months ago by his father, and the timber sold to a local cabinet maker. Some years ago one of the hollow oaks was the chosen accommodation bed of a sow during the giving birth to a litter of pigs! Another of the trees was set on fire, it was thought by some of the Hargrave School scholars, in a fit of mere mischief. J. H.

JANUARY 22, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JAN. 23.—Beeston Castle, then in ruin, ordered to be repaired	1636
" 24.—Dr. Beilby Porteus elected 23rd Bishop	1777
" 25.—Royalist forces defeated at Nantwich....	1643
" 26.—Elinour, Lady Byron, died at Chester...	1663
" 27.—Chester Chronicle Office fire in Hoppole Yard	1809
" 28.—Captain Steel executed for cowardice ...	1644

J. H.

Original Documents.

[477] LADIES' CAPS AND KERCHIEFS IN 1540.

It is amusing to anyone in the habit of consulting the more ancient Orders of Corporations, to notice how fond the ruling fathers of our cities were of interfering in matters that in no degree properly concerned them. It is a vice not altogether absent in our own day: but it would hardly do in the nineteenth century to issue, much less carry practically out, such a startling injunction as that we present to our readers to-day. They managed matters, from the wife-changing king on his throne to the lowest Jack in authority, with a pretty high hand in those pre-Reformation days! The Order runs thus in the Assembly Book of the period:—

"Temp'e Henrici Gee, mayre, Anno
R'E's Henrici octavi, xxxij ti.

NONE SHALL WEAR CAPS BUT WIVES.

"Also wher it hath bene Longe tyme Contynued Within The Citie, and yet is, that not onely the wiffe, wedoes, And manye mayds of the Same comonly used to were vpon ther hedes both whyte capes and kercheffs, and vpon that, grete brode blacke hatts; but also all the mayds and onmariyd women vse to were on ther heds both whyte churchar, wherby Can not be knowne a syngle woman from A mariyd. Which disordering and abusing of ap'ell is not onely contrary To the good vse And Honest facion used in other Good Cities and plao's of the relme, Wherby Greate obloquy Amonge strangers hath and Doth Run Abrode, But also is verrey Costly, more then nescessary charges conveniently requireth, And Ageynest the Comon Wolthe of this Citie. Therfore it is orderid by the Saide mayre, ald'rmen, And comen Counsaile of the saide Citie, That after the eight Day of September next comyng no manar Single or vnmariyd woman within the Saide Citie Shall were vpon hur hede eny Whyte cap, or of other Colour, vnder payne of ijs for every tyme so offending; nor that eny Wyfe, Wedo, or other Woman or mayde Wythin the same Citie After the day aforesaid, shall were any hatt of blacke or other Coloure onesle it be when she Rydes, or els goith on Walking Abrode in the feldes or Country, Vnder Payne of ijs. iiijd., And every tym: So offending this ordinaunce. prouidd allwayes that all Wemen Being veri aged or Diseased with grete Sickenes may for ther Healthe and necessary comforts of ther healthe, vse hatts and capes as they haue done afortyme, this ord'n'nce or eny thinge Therin conteynid to the contrary not Wythstanding."

What a flutter of exoitement and anger must have run through the leading Chester households in 1540, when old Henry Gee, the Mayor, put forth that arrogant Proclamation, interfering with one of the dearest privileges cherished by woman, young or old—the in-born love of dress!

EDITOR.

[478] BOSTHERNE PARISH-CLERKSHIP.

The annexed memoranda, recently met with in the Parish Records of BOSTHERNE, may perhaps be thought worthy of preservation in THE SHEAF. They refer to the office of parish clerk and schoolmaster, the duties of which seem occasionally to have been performed by one and the same individual.

The first memorandum, copied into the Parish Book in 1694, runs thus:—

"This following is the true Coppie of a paper lost in the possession of Richard Legh of High Legh, Esq're; and it is now written to certifie all persons concerned to whom the Election of a clerke did of right appertayne or belonge 72 yeares since, as may appeare by the said paper being then subscribed by the present writer and severall gentlemen and others, inhabitants of the parish of BOSTHERNE.

"Whereas, the Clerkeshipp of Rothsterne is now void, by reason of the death of Hugh Gandie, our late clerke: wee whose names are subscribed, beeing inhabitants in the said parishe, doe promise faythfully one unto another that we will joyne all together in the election of a new clerke, and maintaine our antient righte, not varying in the election except hee that shall refuse so to doe shall yoid such a rayson as by the most of us shall bee allowed for good.

"Dated the 20th day of December, 1622.

John Chadock, vicar,	Tho. Leghe
J. Venables	Peter Daniel
John Meire	Peter Leigh
William Millington	Edward Allon
John Allon."	

The other memorandum, later by some 44 years than the above transcript, runs as follows:—

"July 8, 1748. We the Gentlemen, Churchwardens, and other Parishioners, having elected Thomas Percivall Clerk and Schoolmaster, do order he shall receive and take Ten Pounds a year as Sallery, to be paid by the Churchwardens for the time being, by two equal payments, (to wit) at Christmas and Midsommer yearly and every year and the interest of Ten Pounds belonging to the said School, and left by William Hough of Tatten, Yeoman; so long as he, the said Thomas Percivall, behaves himself civilly, morally, and industriously in his office, and keeps the Parish Book and Accounts, and Orders made by the said Gentlemen, fair and clear.

Thos. Egerton
and others."

Bostherne Manor.

WILBRAHAM EGERTON.

Notes.

[479] CHURCH BELLS AT THE REFORMATION.

"In 1558, the year of the spoliation of churches," says Mr. J. E. BAILEY, "the churchwardens of Childwall, Lancashire, sold one of their church bells to John

Plymmer, of Chester." Mr. B. further says, in the pamphlet from which I quote, "most of the bells in Edward VI.'s reign went to the Jews at Antwerp."

In 1550-1 the Chester Dean and Chapter Treasurers' Accounts record as follows:—

"Recevyd off Mr. Will'm Aldersale and Sethe Rosomgreve, off the citie off Chestur, for a BELLE weghyng xvij hunderthe pownde, everie hunderthe pownde at xxxvijs, the iij daie off Maie, 1551, the sume off xxxiiij li:—for the odde iiij the saide Mr. Aldersale and Rosomgreve wolde not paie...xxxiiij li.

"Rec'd off Mr. Deane 30 May, the above xxxiiij li p' me Will' Wall."

Whether this old Cathedral Bell of ours went, as indicated by MR. BAILEY, "to the Jews at Antwerp," I cannot tell. But as we had several Founders settled at Chester, both long before and after Edward the Sixth's reign, it is not unlikely that Master "Seth Rosomgreve," who was himself one of that craft, may have melted his weighty acquisition on the spot. One Simon Montford, perhaps a descendant of that great Simon, Earl of Leicester, whose name was alike the pride and terror of our ancestors, was a Chester Founder at the date of the Dissolution, as were others of his family before and since that date.

T. HUGHES.

[480] A CHESTER NEWSPAPER 122 YEARS AGO.

There lies before me, as I write, a copy of Adams *Weekly Courant*, the No. for January 25, 1757, lately rescued from a heap of waste paper at a fruit stall in Liverpool. It is numbered 1239, and forms part of Vol. XII.: this would carry back the date of the first volume to 1733,—an extremely respectable antiquity in the annals of the provincial Press.

The copy before me has the usual stock news from the London papers:—the serious illness of the Pope; the attempted assassination of the King of France; the trial and conviction of Admiral Byng; the everlasting Lottery; the burial of a fat Lap-Dog at Shrewsbury, &c. Local News is wonderfully scarce; nothing whatever seems to have occurred in the whole county worth the telling, except the wreck of two vessels in a storm off Hoyle Sands: in fact it is difficult to make out what the reporters, if there were any, of this *Weekly Courant* could have found to do with their time. It is slightly the reverse of that now!

The Advertisements were perhaps, on the whole, the most interesting items. Of course there were the usual puffs about certain Quack Medicines, and other similar bits of padding; but there were a few Notices of local doings also worth recording. For instance, there was announced "To be Let, the Large House, Coach-house, &c., in Lower Bridge Street, late in the holding of Thomas Mather, Esq., Recorder." This was the house on the east side, near Toola's Lane, recently occupied as the Working Men's Institute, and now the property of Mr. Meadows Frost. Then there was "the Large

House at the Bars" to be let for a term, with its Stable for eight horses, its garden and orchard, and a "new-fashioned Coach-and-four, very little used." This was probably the house built by the Egertons of Oulton and still standing, but somewhat altered, at the top of Dee Lane. Next came an atom or two of sporting news. "The Fox Hounds would be at the house of Thomas Pursall at the Black Swan in Congleton on the coming Sunday, and would hunt the week following." "The Swan Inn," too, at Knutsford wanted a Tenant, with its capital stables and the additional charm of "a large Cookpit within the Garden." Then Robert Bowers, the Upholsterer, of Eastgate Street, had got tired of that business, and was busy selling off at ruinous prices preparatory to becoming a Watchmaker and Silversmith. Lastly, a lot of craven Welshmen of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire had deserted from the Royal Marines at Carmarthen; and his Majesty was lovingly anxious to get hold of them again, and advertised measures accordingly. These items and others like them were the staple features of the *Chester Courant* of 120 years ago.

G. T.

[481] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.

Only some of the oldest inhabitants will be able to recollect "Sammy" and "Jacky," once well-known characters in Chester.

SAMMY GRICE was almost a dwarf, and lived by begging. We have a sketch of him before us representing him in a swallow-tail red coat and green collar, given him by a member of the "Tarpoley Hunt" (as it was then called), in which he used to figure, with the tails reaching to his slippers. He also rejoiced in a huge ecclesiastical "shovel" hat; and this with a large bag for perquisites completed his get-up.

He had a rival in "Jacky." JACKY ADAMS was as tall as Sammy was short, and he also lived by begging. He was generally attired in the cast-off clothing of one of the canons. Two of a trade proverbially quarrel, and these two used to abuse each other roundly; but we are not aware that they ever came to blows.

They were flourishing about 1810.

Boughton.

E. A. B.

Queries.

[482] TUMULUS AT ECCLESTON.

Hanshall says (page 307)—"The situation of Eccleston is extremely picturesque, and a walk thither from Chester is a favourite exercise with the citizens. The parsonage commands a fine view of the River Dee, and to the line of Broxton Hills, and the high lands of the Forest of Delamere. Below the church, in the grounds attached to the Rectory, is a Tumulus of considerable

size, adjoining which is a bath." (The bath, now disused, is in the centre.)

About 50 years ago, so I am informed by an old inhabitant of the village (now living) the then Rector, Rev. Charles Mytton (who afterwards assumed the name of Thornycroft) ordered an excavation to be made for some purpose; the result was the discovery of a vast quantity of human bones. The earth was carted but a very short distance from the spot—in the same field.

I may add that the site is planted with trees, and forms a very conspicuous object from the Meadows.

Can any of your numerous Correspondents say to what period this TUMULUS may be attributed?

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

[483]

CAMBRIAN QUERIES.

I have found the following "notes and queries" in some papers which fell out of an old copy of Pennant which had to be examined the other day to verify some legal enquiries; and as they are more or less interesting to the students of Welsh literature, I copy them out for THE SHEAF.

THE WHIFF, said by PENNANT to be a rare species of flounder, sometimes caught in the Dee. One was caught in the year 1814, another in 1816, the last being sent to Downing as a present to Pennant's son. Are there any other instances to be recorded?

HOWEL GWYNEDD, called by Pennant a valiant supporter of Owen Glendower; and buried they say, incorrectly, at Northop. He was buried within the parish of Rhuddlan; but where there, who can tell?

HALKIN MINERALS. Granted to the GROSVENORS in 1634, saith Pennant. I doubt it much, my impression being that the grant from the Crown was to one FENNS. I should like to know for fact if the lucky Grosvenors did not buy him up.

MAEN ACHWYNFAN, so well described by Pennant, has a tradition attached to it, which came to my ears when a lad. The country people fancied it covered some treasure, and now and again tried to undermine it, but they were always stopped by a sudden storm of thunder and lightning. What old-fashioned antiquary can give us information about this tradition?

ST. WINEFRED'S WELL. Pennant gives the STANLEYS more credit than they deserve when he attributes to them the erection of the edifice over this remarkable HOLYWELL SPRING (?). Sir EDWARD MOSTYN told me that, according to the Talacre papers, the edifice had been chiefly erected by the price of Indulgences granted by one of the Popes. "What Pope?" I enquired, and Sir Edward replied laughingly, "Lord! who can tell, for there were so many of them!" I should like this point cleared up. Who can do it?

FLINT, COLESHILL, AND HAWARDEN. Is it true that all these places were granted in 1422 as part of her dowry to an English Queen? I asked HENRY PARRY,

of Llanasa, but he was *not sure*. Well? some one must know, and I want the evidence if it can be got.

Glan Aber, Chester.

E. G. S.

[484] GLOVERS' STONE, OR GLOVERSTONE.

HANSHALL in his "Cheshire Population Returns, 1811" (page 64), says that ST. MARY'S PARISH, Chester (in the county) consists of the following townships:—*Gloverstone* (completely destroyed, the site converted into barracks), Marleston with Lache, Mosten, Claverton, and Upton.

It is stated, "there was a stone of immense size at *Gloverstone*; tradition says, it was used by the Glovers to dress their leather, and hence the name of Glover's stone."

It will not, I trust, be uninteresting to repeat here what HANSHALL (page 322) says respecting *Gloverstone*. Being an obsolete township name at the present day (or nearly so), it must have some interest to the public at large.

"Attached to the office of SHERIFF is a very disagreeable duty: that of executing all criminals, as well those tried in the County Court as in the City Court. On the day appointed for an execution the Sheriffs, accompanied by their Bailiffs and the Town Clerk, on horseback, and the Constables, proceed through the City to the verge of the Castle Wall, called Gloverstone. Here the cavalcade halt, and one of the Bailiffs goes forward to the Constable of the Castle to demand the body of the convict. The Constable brings out his prisoner under a military guard: and at Gloverstone, he is delivered to the Sheriffs.

"Being placed on a cart, the horse led by the Executioner, the procession returns to the City Gate, on a drop at the back of which the Execution takes place."

This dubious privilege once attaching to the Shrievalty of Chester has recently been abolished by statute.

Can anyone define the exact boundary of this township? I presume the Castle occupies the site?

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

Replies.

[485]

NANTWICH CHURCH.

Would your correspondent J. H., who supplies the "Weekly Diary of Local Events," state what proofs can be adduced for Nantwich Church having been made a Parish Church on 8th Jan., 1461?

Willaston.

J. HALL.

[MR. HALL is entitled to our thanks for pointing out an error, for which we are ourselves responsible, and

not J. H. The date given in the "Diary" was based on a Deed, the English version of which alone is printed in PARTIDGE's *Antiquities of Nantwich*, pp. 47-8. Therein William Ruddock and William Lynch, Stewards of the religious Guilds of Wich Malbank, grant to William Howe and Sybyll his wife, the privilege of daily masses "in the Church of the Blessed Mary in Wich Malbank," with other rights usually appertaining only to a Parish Church. PARTIDGE regards this as "proving Nantwich to be a Parish Church and not a Chapel;" and it was in his day the only known evidence of the title. This Deed, however, of Jan. 8, 1461, does not go the length of declaring that on that day parochial rights were actually granted to the Church of Nantwich, so the statement has been omitted in this separate issue of THE SHEAF.

The recently published Calendars of the Palatinate Records give us a still earlier date when, by the like argument, Nantwich seemed to claim parochial rights and status. Sir William Lovell, Knight, dying in July, 1455, his son and heir, Sir John Lovell, Knight, sued out livery of his father's lands; shewing that he held, *inter alia*, "a sixth part of the Barony of Wich Malbank, with the advowson of the Church of St. Nicholas there, held of the Earl of Chester *in capite*." This and the previous extract, if they prove anything definite, shew that, prior to 1455, NANTWICH aspired to the dignity of a Church, in preference to a mere Chapel under the more ancient foundation of ACTON.

EDITOR.]

[486] MORE SOLDIERS FOR IRELAND.

[No. 457.—Jan. 8.]

The Sir Samuel BAGNALL alluded to in your SHEAF of last week (as the person from whom the authorities in Chester were to take instructions respecting forwarding troops to Ireland) was knighted at Cadiz 1596, serving in the Expedition against that place, when taken by the English under the Earl of Essex. He was the eldest son of Sir Raufe Bagnall, M.P. for Stafford, 1st of Elizabeth. SIR SAMUEL was ordered at that time (1598) to Ireland with reinforcements to succeed his cousin Sir Henry Bagnall, of Morley Castle, Ireland, and Stoke, Staffordshire; who had been slain on August 15th of that year, at Blackwater, while in command of the Royal Forces against the rebellion headed by the Earl of Tyrone.

The father of Sir Henry (and brother of Sir Raufe named above) was Sir Nicholas Bagnall, M.P. for Newcastle-under-Lyne, 1st of Elizabeth. He was sent to Ireland in command of Troops in 1642, and was Marshal General of the Forces there in 1650-1; previous to which time he had grants of land in Ireland made to him by Edward VI., including the Abbey of Newry, laying the foundation of the prosperity to which this town has since attained.

The family of the Bagnalls settled in Staffordshire in the twelfth century under the name of De Bagenhall.

B.

[487] CAPTAIN THOMAS SANDFORD.

[Nos. 211, 417, 462.—Aug. 14, Dec. 11, Jan. 8.]

It is difficult to understand how E. G. S. has misread HEMINGWAY (*Chester*, vol. I., pp. 172-176) and misplaced in point of time the two letters of CAPTAIN SANDFORD. The letter dated 22nd Nov., 1643, was not addressed to Sir Michael Ernley, but to the besieged Parliamentarians in Hawarden; and it should have preceded the letter dated 15th Jan., 1643 (old style), which, of course, was written nearly two months after. Hence No. 462 *Gleaning* has been bound into THE SHEAF upside down! By referring to a pamphlet entitled *Magnalia Dei*, published in 1644, E. G. S. will find that on the 18th Jan., 1643, "At Wicksted's Sconce (now Nursery Gardens at Nantwich) was slaine *Captain Sandford*, the threatening man that talkt of eternall fire." His burial is not to be found at Nantwich, so that he may have been conveyed for burial to Chester, according to 417 of THE SHEAF; but it would be interesting to know if such burial is recorded in St. Werburgh's Church registers.

Willaston, Nantwich.

J. HALL.

[488] SALMON REFUSED BY APPRENTICES.

[Nos. 212, 406.—Aug. 14, Dec. 3.]

The other day, when reading Charles Kingsley's well-known "Water Babies," I met with a passage which, I fancied, might serve as a slight addition to the Reply already inserted in the number of THE SHEAF as above. Speaking of the salmon-stream into which little Tom, the "Water Baby," passed on his way out to sea, the Canon says—

"Or was it such a stream as I trust you will see among the Hampshire water-meadows, before your hairs are grey, under the wise new Fishing Laws?—when Winchester apprentices shall covenant, as they did three hundred years ago, not to be made to eat salmon more than three days a week; and fresh-run fish shall be as plentiful under Salisbury spire, as they are in Holly-hole at Christchurch; in the good time coming, when folks shall see that, of all Heaven's gifts of food, the one to be protected most carefully is that worthy gentleman salmon, who is generous enough to go down to the sea weighing five ounces, and to come back next year, weighing five pounds, without having cost the soil or the State one farthing."

Perhaps some further clue to this tradition may be obtainable from Winchester.

T. C. H.

JANUARY 29, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JAN. 30.—Thomas de Byrohe-Hyles elected 14th Abbot of Chester	1291
„ 31.—Thomas Powell, of Birkenhead, created Baronet	1628
FEB. 3.—Chester surrendered to the Parliament..	1646
„ 4.—A deep snow	1579

J. H.

Original Documents.

[489] WELSH TROOPS FOR THE IRISH WAR.

Captain ELLIS MAURICE, whose name appears in the following communication to THE CHESHIRE SHEAF, was the second son of Sir Wm. Maurice, of Clenunney, in Carnarvonshire, and of Porkington, now Brogyntyn, in Shropshire, and was born 1st of May, 1568. He married Jane, one of the daughters of Sir Wm. Mering, of Mering, co. of Notts. His father, William, afterwards Sir William Maurice, was elected to represent the county of Carnarvon in 1592, 1593, 1597, 1604, and the borough of Beaumaris in 1601, and was one of the Council in the Marches of Wales. He was a personal friend of King James I., and it was at Sir William's suggestion that that monarch assumed the title of "King of Great Britain." In the printed Calendar of State Papers it appears that on December 18, 1606, Sir Wm. Maurice pressed in Parliament to have the King's title of "Great Britain" confirmed; and there is at Peniarth the original proclamation, supposed to be *unique*, whereby the King assumed that title.

The following papers exhibit an instance, very common at the time, of the indifference of persons as to the spelling of their names. Sir Wm. Maurice always signed his surname "Maurice," so did his son; yet the former, in endorsing his son's account and letter, writes it "Moris."

"The accompts of Captain Ellis morrys appointed Conductor of fiftie souldiours by William Maurice, of Clenunney esquier one of her Ma'ts. deputie lieutenants for the Countie of Carnarvon beinge the west parte of that shiere and have received at the Towne of Carnarvon within the Countie of Carnarvon afforesaid of Wm. Maurice esquier the fiftie men savinge the defects which was wantinge out of the three Commotts of llyne with the Some of one hundreth three score and fifteen poundes bestowed by me the said conductour to the vse of the said fiftie men as followeth the xxviijth day of february last 1599 Anno R. E. xlij.

Imprimis	Paid for preses & conduct when I was sent abroad by the said deputie lieutenants to llyne Elyoneth & Vohor. as by theire names shall appere	xxxvs.
Item	Laid out vpon friday beinge the viij daie of february after vjd. a man	xxvijs.
Item	Laid out vpon Saterdaie beinge the ixth of feb. after xviijd. a man	ij li. xvs.
Item	Laid out vpon mondaie the xjth of feb. after xijd. a man	ij li. xs.
Item	Laid out vpon Wednesdaie the xijth daie of the same after xijd. a man	ij li. xs.
Item	Paid for ij horses & a guide to goe after Coronell St. John to the watersid beinge appointed Conductour generall ouer the Supplies for Ireland to knowe his pleasure for my fiftie men beinge come to (too) late	vjs. viijd.
Item	Paid for 3 peire of shues in Carnarvon for 3 souldiers that had none to weare	vjs.
Item	Paid for xj men insteade of those which were cast for vnsufficiencie & wantinge as will appere in which Commott the (they) were cast and wanted	xj li.
Item	Paid for the Souldiours diet before they entred into the li. s. d. Queenes paye for six meales	iiij. xij. viij.
Item	Paid to the Souldiours at shipboord for their farewell accordinge to our vse	xxs.
Item	Myne owne paie after vjs. per diem for xxiiij tie daies	vij li. iiijjs. £37, 7, 4
Item	Paid to the treasurer one hundred fiftie five poundes, countinge the Coate and conduct monie, so that there remayneth vnpaid xx li. to make up the Just propo' on after iij li. 10s. a man	155.8

The names of those souldiours that went out of enerie commot with the names of them that were cast & wanted & the names of those that went in their Roles.

[I have omitted these names as uninteresting to the reader. The account is endorsed, in the hand of Sir Wm. Maurice, "Capt. Moris conducteur, his accompe, for the 50 soldiers sent to . . . (Ch)est(er) febr. 99 (1599-1600) to be furnished per l iij co. (commotts) llyv." (Lleyv).]

Extract of the copy of a letter in 1600, from Sir Wm. Maurice, Knt., one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Carnarvonshire, to the Lord Lieutenant of the County, relative to the muster of forces for service in Ireland. This copy is in Sir William's autograph.

"And withall (w'ch is the efficient cause) the better sort of gentlemen have so many Retainers, and servants; and alse doe countenance other of their friends not to come to the musters, or being pressed or sent for do keepe them back; or yt. (that) more is, doe Rescue them from the officer or such as are sent for them."

There is also a letter from Captain Ellis Maurice to his father, dated from Chester in August, 1600, relative to some souldiers of whom he appears to have been Captain, and who had not appeared in their full numbers. They were for service in Ireland, and were to be shipped from Chester for Loochfoyle, &c. The letter is endorsed in Sir William Maurice's hand, and he styles his son, "Capten Ellis Moris." It concludes "your obedient sonn to Comaund Ellis Maurice."

Peniarth.

W. W. E. W.

Notes.

[490] SIR PETER LEYCESTER'S HISTORICAL ANTIQUITIES.

In the life of Gregory King, the herald, there are one or two interesting references to Sir Peter Leycester's work. King, who was a native of Lichfield, lived 1648-1712. While very young he had attended Sir William Dugdale as his clerk, during the heraldic visitation of Norroy's entire province; and being an accomplished draughtsman, as well as arms painter, he took on his way "prospects" of the chief towns, as Chester, Stafford, Lancaster, &c. He became successively Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, Lancaster Herald, and Deputy Garter King at Arms. It seems that in 1672, Hollar, the well-known engraver, introduced King, already known for his artistic accomplishments, to Mr. Ogilvy, who had a royal license to print things of his own composing, and kept a press in his house. It is said that Ogilvy, under the name of Leybourne, or some other master printer, also printed other works; and "was at that time printing Sir Peter Leycester's 'Antiquities of Chester,' wherein some old seals being to be engraved, Mr. King made his first attempt in etching upon them, and performed them to satisfaction." (*Heraldic Miscellanies*, 4to, 1793, pp. 30-31, and of Noble's *Hist. Coll. of Arms*, pp. 335-345).

There are six seals in Sir Peter's work, viz., at pages 245, 264, 274, 356, 357, 358; and they are, as is well known, very neat specimens of the engraver's art. The map itself is not King's work, but William Hole's, being from a copy by "Christ. Saxton." Ogilvy was the author of the useful road-maps of England; in the preparation of which he was greatly assisted by Gregory King, and which, with other works of the same author, were sold at Clavell's shop.

The imprint of the *Antiquities* states that it was printed by W. L. for Robert Clavell, in Cross Key Court, in Little Britain. W. L. is probably for Leybourne. Clavell was the compiler of that most useful *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in England since the Dreadful Fire in 1666*, London, folio, 1674-5; a copy of which was most kindly presented to me lately, by Dr. Kendrick, of Warzington. In that work, page 32, Leycester's *Antiquities*, "printed for R. Clavell," has a place, its price being 18s., the same rate at which Lodge's *Josephus*, and Foulis's *Romish Treason* were published.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

Queries.

[491] THE HERMIT NUN OF NORTON.

Who was she,—and where was the spot of her seclusion? I have been several times to NORTON PRIORY in days past, and thought I had seen every known locality there of historic or ecclesiastical interest. What is the story or tradition, if any, of this anchorite's cell?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[492] SIR THOMAS EXMEWE.

Mr. Orridge in 1867 published an interesting volume under the title of *The Citizens of London and their Rulers*, 1060-1867, and he names some hundreds of gentlemen who served the office of Lord Mayor in the city; among them, SIR THOMAS EXMEWE, a member of the Goldsmith's Company, who, after serving as Alderman of Cripplegate Ward for some time, became Sheriff in 1508, and Mayor in 1517. He further informs his readers that this gentleman was a native of FLINTSHIRE; but beyond that, and the statement of his services as mentioned above, his history is a blank. Can any of your readers tell me aught more about him?

S. G. A.

[493] PEPPER STREET, CHESTER.

Why was this conveniently situated, yet somewhat out-of-fashion, street in Chester so called? Time was, and, if my reading correctly informs me, not such a long time since either, when PEPPER STREET was rather an aristocratic region than otherwise. Nay, if we may in such things give credence to tradition, a Mayor of Chester who resided here in mediæval times, made the street memorable when his silly young daughter eloped with her lover. But how, I ask, came the street to be called PEPPER STREET?

L. L.

Replies.

[494] THE TWO NORTHGATE BRIDGES, CHESTER.

[Nos. 361, 465.—Nov 13, Jan. 8]

The interesting account given by Mr. HUGHES of the diversion of the Chester and Nantwich CANAL, from its original line at some distance from the North Wall of the City, to that which it now occupies, would appear to be confirmed by several entries in the Corporation Accounts, the first of which is the following:—

"1772, May 18. To a gratuity by
Mr. Mayor's order on his cutting the
first sod of ye Canal 5 5 0"

This occasion, according to Hemingway, was celebrated by great public rejoicings.

The next entry is a year later, and runs thus:—

"1773, May 10. Paid Mr. Golborne
for his Trouble in Surveying, Levelling,
and reporting ye Course of ye Canal and
ye guarding of ye Walls and City
Buildings 3 3 0"

It seems open to doubt whether the commencement of the Canal on May 18, 1772, was along the original or along the substituted line. My own opinion inclines to the former, the course subsequently followed being an after-thought.

The Corporation would naturally be anxious to ascertain whether the projected new Course would in any way jeopardise the City Walls and adjacent buildings. That Mr. Golborne's report was not unfavourable to the scheme may be inferred, as we hear of no opposition to it.

A month afterwards is the following entry:—

"1773 June 10. Paid Mr. Read for
measuring part of ye Ho. of Correction
Garden taken by ye Proprietors of ye
Canal 0 7 6"

It is but reasonable to suppose that if the altered course had been the one commenced by the Mayor in 1772, the payments to Messrs. Golborne and Read would have appeared at a much earlier date, as their work must have taken place before May of that year.

The House of Correction (referred to in the last extract from the Corporation Accounts) stood on the plot of ground between George-street and the North Wall of the City. The garden belonging to it extended up to the Wall itself, and would not have been interfered with had the Canal been constructed along the line first determined upon. In the Map of the City at p. 610 of Lysons' *Cheshire*, the buildings occupying the site just mentioned are lettered "House of Correction." The Map bears date July 25, 1809. As a matter of fact they ceased to be occupied as such in 1808.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[495]

THE GROVES, CHESTER.

[No. 323.—Oct. 23.]

The "delicious avenue" of limes to which "A WOOD-MAN" so enthusiastically calls attention at the above quoted reference, quite deserves all he has said in its honour; and it is to be hoped that the city authorities will in the future, as in the past, jealously guard the old trees from undue interference and injury.

The avenue itself, and the walk it adorns near the river-side, now popularly known as THE GROVES, were placed there in the year 1725 by, and at the personal cost of, CHARLES CROUGHTON, apothecary, then holding the lucrative position of Swordbearer of the city of Chester. Mr. CROUGHTON, representative of a city trader-family of long standing, had sometime previously obtained a long lease of the adjoining land from the Corporation; a portion of it had been laid out, a century or more previously, as a Bowling-Green, and soon became, through its picturesque situation on the margin of the river Dee, a place of popular resort with the citizens. It was called the "Lower Bowling Green," to distinguish it from its older namesake, then and still known as the "Bowling Green Inn," at the junction of Milton-street and Brook-street.

If space can be afforded, the following extracts from the Corporation Assembly Books of Chester will be seen to justify some, at all events, of the above statements:—

"22 Sept., 1627. 2 Charles I. At the same Assembly, William, Earle of Derby, desired by his peti'on to haue a certaine peece of Wast land lyinge at Deeside, vnderneath St. John's, graunted vnto him in fee farme; on w^{ch} he had erected or built a Chamber, and inclosed the wast ground. Whereupon it is ordered, That he shall haue the same Chamber and inclosed wast grownd graunted vnto him in fee farme, payinge xxs. yearlye at Michaelmas."

Unlike too many of these rents in fee farm, most of which had ceased to be collected or paid before twenty years had passed by, this particular rent continued to be regularly received until within the last 6 or 7 years, when it was redeemed by the late owner's paying a lump sum in extinction of the charge.

"17 December, 1631, 6 Charles I." By an Assembly Order of this date, Earl Derby, who was now permanently residing at Deeside in a house he had himself erected, was granted the fee farm of "The Bowling Alley," as well as the other adjoining land previously granted to him.

G. T.

[496]

THE KING'S FISH-BOARD.

[No. 413.—Dec. 11.]

Though unable to make out from our local records what was the exact meaning of the "King's Fish-Board," I imagine it was the stall at which the quality of foreign fish was tested, and at which the Mayor, as

Clerk of the Market, bought such fish as he chose for the city's use. I have met with several references to it from time to time, in the city's books, and these my readers may be glad to see tied together in *THE SHEAF*.

The earliest notice in point of time dates back to the vigorous mayoralty of HENRY GEE, 25th Henry VIII, A.D. 1533, and is preserved in the first volume of the MS. Orders of Assembly in the muniment-room at the Town Hall :—

"An ord'r how fresh fish shalbe solde, viz: to be brought to ye Kings bord; non but Cittizens to bye to ix of Cloock; fishmongers to x; and after, Strangers; and so of all fish cominge by boots, vpon payne of Imprisonment.

"HIT IS ORDERED at assemble, holden w'tin the pentice of The Citie of Chester, by Henry Gee, Mayre of the same, and by his breth'r Aldermen and comon counsell of the same, That all fryshe fyshe Coming to the Citie to be soulede, As Samon, mylvell, Rey, or enye other se fyshe, shall come vnto The Kinges borde, ther to be Soulede, And that no p'son nor p'sons to by anye thereof Afore ix of ye cloocke, on payne of forfytinge for enery tyme So doing xxd. ~~Excep~~ Excep the Cytizens of the Cytye for ther oune houseold. And at ix of the cloocke, the fyshe mong's to by tyll x of the cloocke; and at ten of the cloocke the faryn fyshes to haue lib'tie to out and Retayle ther fyshe at y'r pleasures. And in lyke maner, all fyshe comyng in botes to be Soulede to the Citie shall in no wyse be soule to Suche tyme as the mayre Com, And see the Citie s'uid, and then the fyshemong's, And after them, the Cariers of the Countrey. And this order To be kept and not broken. And if ony offend the Same, to be Commytyd to Warde, ther to Remayne to Suche tyme as the fyne Afor Specyfied be lenied and payed; p'uided Allwayes, That the mayre of the Saide Citie at all tymes shall cause to be out and Retayled the fysshes aforessaide at his pleasure."

No locality is named for the FISH BOARD in this Order of 1533; nor do I find any further reference to it in the Books of Assembly, until the 27th Sept., 1588, (Robert Brerewood being Mayor) when

"RAFE COWPER, Junio'r, Cowp', exhibiteth his supplicao'on to haue the Kings fish board Removed from the place it now is, beinge righte againste and adioyninge to the Cello'r of Hughe Bromley, gent', nowe in th'occupac'o'n of the said Rafe Cowp'; it is ordered that the Tresurers shall take ord'r therin."

Nothing was done further to accommodate Mr. Cowper for a couple of years; but in Nov., 1590, his landlord, Mr. Hugh Bromley, having meanwhile died, his widow puts forth her claim, and is answered in the following Order :—

"M'tres Elizabeth Bromley, widow, exhibiteth her petio'n to haue pai'd vnto her xvjs. viijd., being v yeres Rente vnpaid for the rente of the plat of ground of hers wherevpon the Kings fishe boord nowe standeth, in the Watergate streete w'thin the said Citie, at iijs. iiijd. by yere, And to haue the

same boord removed.—It is nowe ordered that the now Treasurers of the said Citie shall forthwith paie vnto her the same xvjs. viijd., vnto her due for the said place. And as towching the shiftinge of the said boord from that place, therof furth'r considerac'o'n is to be hadd."

This is all I at present find about the King's Board. But this last Order shews that it was set up in Watergate-street; and, as it is clear from other evidence that the City Market of that day stood close within the angle formed by Bridge-street and Watergate-street, the precise site of the Royal Fish Board cannot very well have been to the westward of "God's Providence" House.

T. HUGHES.

[497] THE LOCAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF CHESHIRE.

(No. 462.—Jan. 8.)

The reason that I omitted to mention the *disk* of butter in my paper which first appeared in *NOTES AND QUERIES*, was simply that I had no intention of writing specially upon *Cheshire* weights and measures. I merely wished to draw attention to a subject which, since the passing of the *Weights and Measures Act*, has become one of some interest; and I instanced a few of those weights and measures which I recollected best at the time. The word "*Cheshire*" was added to the title of my paper by the Editor of *NOTES AND QUERIES*. With respect, however, to the *disk* of butter, I believe it was formerly in use at Northwich as well as at Chester, though I think I have been told that at Northwich the weight was twenty and not twenty-four ounces.

ROBERT HOLLAND.

Norton Hill, Runcorn.

FEBRUARY 5, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

FEB. 5.—William de Babington elected 15th Abbot of Chester	1325
" 7.—Chester Volunteers, 1,268 strong, inspected by Colonel Cuyler	1804
" 8.—Sir William Dawes, Bart., consecrated 18th Bishop of Chester	1707
" 9.—John Pearson, D.D., consecrated 15th Bishop of Chester	1672
" 10.—George Cotton, D.D., installed Dean of Chester	1787
" 11.—Fenian Raid on Chester	1867

J. H.

Original Documents.

[498] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS, 1665-6.

We have been favoured with the permission of SIR PHILIP GREY EGERTON, BART., M.P., to publish a Selection of Lieutenantcy Documents for the years 1665-6, in his possession. The documents will most of them tell their own story: the one we print to-day relates to the Repair of CHESTER CASTLE, mainly, it would seem, induced by an expected Rising of Disaffected Bountheads in 1666.

"Charles R,

"Whereas upon Representation made to Us of the Ruinous Condicion and decay of Our Castle of Chester, the Lords of Our Privy Councell did by their letters of the 15th of Novemb'r last past direct that the Mize of right payable to Us as Earle of Chester, being by you'r order levied and collected, soe much thereof as is necessary should be paid into the hands of S'r Geffery Shakerly, Our governour of that Our Castle, and S'r Peter Pindar, upon account, for and towards the repaire of Our said Castle. We reflecting upon the same and considering the Importance it is of to Our service that the said Castle bee immediately repaired and put into a Condicion of security and defence, Our will and pleasure is, that in the meane tyme till the said Mizes soe assigned to that use as aforesaid can be levied and paid in, you, or soe many of your Deputy Lieuten'ts as shall bee requisite, give order for the yssuing and paying out to the said S'r Geffery Shakerly and S'r Peter Pindar soe much of the Militia money of that Our County now remaining in deposite within Our said Castle, as shall be sufficient for the making and completing the said repaires; with care and provision that the same bee reimbursed out of the said Mizes as the same shall arise and grow due, according to the said directions from the Lords of Our Councell, that soe the ffunds of the Militia may remaine entire for the uses it is properly intended, and by Us preserved for, for wh'h this shall be your Warrant.

Given at Our Court at Oxford the 20th day of Decemb'r in the 17th year of Our Reigne, 1665.

By his Ma'ties Command,

ABLINGTON.

To our Right trusty and Right Welbeloved Cousin Charles Earle of Derby, Our Lieuten't of Our County of Cheshire, to the Deputy Lieuten'ts of that County, and to every of them, and to all those whom it may Concerne."

[Endorsed]

"A Copy of his Ma'ties Warrant for the repaire of the Castle of Chester out of the Militia money's now in the said Castle, and to be reimbursed out of the Mizes issuing out of the County."

"My Lord and Gentlemen

I send you inclosed a copy of his Ma'ties Warrant, praying you immediately upon receipt hereof to put his Ma'ties Commands into execution; ffor the more speedy dispatch whereof my Key shall bee ready to attend you at Chester upon Notice of the day you appoint for the issuing out of the money.

I remayne

Gentlemen

Your aff'te Friend and Servt.

DERBY."

Knowsley, 13th febr.

1665(6)."

[Endorsed]

"A Copy of the Earle of Derby's Letter to the Deputy Lieut's of this County concerning the same."

SIR PHILIP EGERTON reminds us that the earlier Lieutenantcy Papers of the Oulton Park series have been already printed in his paper on the LORDS LIEUTENANTS in the 2nd Vol. of Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, pp. 125-136; and in another Paper on CHESHIRE COUNTY ELECTIONS in the *Journal* of the Chester Archaeological and Historic Society, Vol. 1, pp. 101-12.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[499] JENNINGS FAMILY OF ISCOYD.

The following entry is from the register of marriages in the parish of LEIGH, near Manchester, and may interest Cheshire and Flintshire genealogists. Ringley and Ellenbrook are both near Eccles, and in the registers of the latter parish HANMER's name frequently occurs.

"November An'o d'ni 1666: Thursday ye 29th [Oct. 1666] Thomas Nayler son of George Nayler of Bedford [i. e. Bedford-Leigh] Married to Mary Jennings daughter of Edward Jennings late of Iscoyd in ye County of Flint Gent and Dominion of Wales; and solemnized at Ringley Chappell By Joseph Hanmer then minister at Ellenbroogh [Ellenbrook]."

Iscoyd, now called Iscoed, although part of Flintshire, is locally in the county of Salop. There is a note on the chapel of Iscoed, mentioning Mr. Joseph Hanmer of that place in 1657, at page 619 of Part X. of Ormerod's *Cheshire*, just out.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[500] JUBILEE REJOICINGS AT CHESTER.

I have just rescued from destruction a very interesting book, an extract from which would be worth inserting, I think, in *THE SHEAF*. It is mainly a compilation of newspaper and other reports of the JUBILEE of King

George the Third, on the 25th October, 1809. The title page is unfortunately torn out, and there is no clue to the author except that she is a lady, as we find from her preface. Doubtless there are some living in the old city who will remember the publication of the work; which was generally subscribed for, and the proceeds devoted to the relief of the numerous prisoners confined for small debts, and who were liberated on the happy occasion of the JUBILEE.

The remarks of the fair authoress on the virtues of her King might be re-written of our own beloved Sovereign, who is herself rapidly approaching her own JUBILEE: and before quoting the special reference to the observance of the Jubilee in Chester, I cannot do better than give the concluding words of the authoress in her rather lengthy preface, and which, I am sure, every loyal heart will endorse:—

"That the life of a Sovereign, so essential to the happiness of a loyal and affectionate people, may long be conceded to them! That when he shall be called hence (oh! be that day yet far removed!) to receive the reward of a reign devoted to the welfare of his subjects, his successors may prove studious of his virtues, and emulous of his example; and that our unrivalled Constitution may, under the protection of a long line of pious and patriotic sovereigns, continue the object of delight, and veneration of mankind. These are prayers which the Editor of the following pages, deeply impressed with gratitude for national blessings, ventures humbly to offer to the Throne of Grace; and to which she hopes every one that considers national prosperity the gift of Divine Mercy, upon their banded knees will cry Amen!"

How the Jubilee was kept in Chester.

"The JUBILEE was celebrated with a degree of magnificence of show, and cordiality of character, never before witnessed. The morning was ushered in with peals of bells from all the Churches; the shops were closely shut, and early preparation was made by all ranks for the approaching festivity. An ox, the gift of JOHN EGBERTON, Esq., of Oulton Park (one of the Members for the City), which had been slaughtered for the purpose of being roasted whole, was paraded on the preceding evening ready spitted, with horns and tail gilt, decorated with ribbons, and attended by a band of music, and the colours of the several clubs of the city. Behind the ox, on the same carriage, rode the butcher, with knife drawn: thus the procession proceeded to the TOWER FIELD, near the Walls of the City, where a building was erected for the purpose of roasting. The fire was lighted at 2, and the ox put down at 8; by 12 the next day it was as well and as regularly roasted as any joint of meat could have been done by the most experienced cook. It was then taken down and the body carved up in great style, and divided in smoking portions to the multitude, at the same time that 4 hogsheads of excellent old beer were also distributed among them. But the liberality of MR. EGBERTON did not stop here; he

ordered a sum of money to be given to all the poor prisoners in the City and County Gaols, that they might regale themselves with a good dinner, and a quart of ale each on the joyful occasion. He likewise caused bread, meat, and ale to be plentifully distributed throughout the neighbourhood of his seat at Oulton.

"MR. HARRISON, the Architect, proposed to erect, by subscription, a column, in one block of stone, 40 feet high, and the whole height, including the basement and termination, to be 56 feet, in some proper situation within the Walls of the City. A stone of this magnitude, it is conjectured, has not been taken from the quarry, and raised upon its pedestal, since the dissolution of the Roman Empire; such a memorial, dedicated through the generosity and gratitude of the people of this City and County, to the public and private virtues of a Prince, practised during a reign of half a century, will be highly honourable to themselves and the Nation, as well as grateful to the Sovereign, and will no doubt be the pride of their descendants, so long as time shall leave it an ornament to the Capital of the County."

Why this monument was not erected in the old City we are not told; but that the well-known Obelisk on Moel Famman was erected instead at that time is well known, though it is now only a ruin. Why should it not be re-erected on that commanding site on the Jubilee of our own beloved Sovereign, should she be spared to complete that joyous period?—which God grant she may!

F. P.

Queries.

ITCHES.

[501]

Can THE SHEAF tell me what is an *itch*? This is a question clearly which no vulgar person can be expected to answer. Yet it is the Vulgar Tongue in this neighbourhood in which these *itches* are found. I asked a child to-day: "How is your grandmother?" The child answered: "She's 'ad very bad Aitoches." Are these Aitoches—*Aches*? Or are they H's—something connected with the Breathing. It is a favourite complaint in Cheshire that the "Breathin' 's bad." Or, are they Aitoches without the A? If any light can be thrown upon this question by any of your readers, I shall be much relieved. I have an Aitch to know—What is an H?

Malpas.

W. T. K.

[502] ASSIZE SERMON IN CHESTER, 1784.

I have before me a copy of a sermon of some local interest. The title is as follows:—"An Assize Sermon, preached in the Cathedral Church of Chester, before the Hon. Richard Pepper Arden, Esq., Chief Justice of Chester, and His Majesty's Attorney General, and the Hon. Daines Barrington, Esq., the Second Justice

of Chester, on Tuesday, April 20, 1784, by the Rev. George Vanbrugh, LL.B., Chaplain to His Majesty's 40th Regiment. Chester: Printed by P. Broster, MDCCCLXXXIV." The Sermon, published at his particular request, is inscribed "with the sincerest gratitude and respect to Thomas Willis, of Swettenham, Esq., High Sheriff of the County Palatine of Chester." The text is St. Matt. viii. ch., 12th ver. 17 pp. quarto. What is known of the preacher?
Gatley Road. P. M. HERFORD.

[503] A FEMALE DEAN OF MIDDLEWICH.

In an account of the Episcopate of BISHOP BRIDGEMAN of Chester, 1619-1652, which I am hoping to edit when leisure allows, the compiler, who wrote a little after Bridgeman's day, discussing the former condition of the Rural Deaneries of the diocese, and contrasting it with the reforms which that Bishop introduced, relates some extraordinary facts. He says that the Rural Deaneries were wont to be leased out for lives or years, "so as sometimes they came to the possession of unworthy and base men, and some of them to women (for MIDDLEWICH Deanery fell by Administration to one . . . KINSEY, the widow of a serving man, which got it in like sort); and DR. KING (on whom the said Bishop bestowed that Deanery) could not after much sate evict her, till she was taken in adultery on a Good Friday in the month of June in Chester, and publicly punished for it." Some of Bridgeman's measures in regard to his Deaneries are referred to in GASTRELL'S *Notitia Cest.*, vol. i., pp. 26 seq., but there is nothing that bears on the particular circumstances related in this old record. Perhaps some correspondent can throw a little further light upon the passage, and inform me where Dr. King was beneficed.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Replies.

[504] WHIPPING POST AT CHESTER.

[No. 281.—Oct. 2.]

Having recently met with the following sentences passed at a Court of Sessions at Chester, 12 March, 1634, under the hand of the celebrated and loyal SIR FRANCIS GAMULL, the then Mayor, I think you may deem them worthy of being gathered into your CHESHIRE SHEAF:—

"It is ordered that William Coult shalbe well whipt, and continue in prison till further order shalbe taken.

"That Hugh Jones shall on Saturday next, at Corne m'ket time, be set in the Stookes, in face of the m'ket, and one Sacke of Corne to be set on his one side, and another sacke of Corne on his other hand, and ou' his head on a post to be written on a pap, 'for Cosenage in the Corne-market.'"

H. S. A.

[505] "THE MONASTERY OF ST. WERBURGH."

[No. 363.—Nov. 18.]

This elegant little poem, of which I possess copies in both small and large paper, was printed anonymously, and for private distribution, in 1823. The author was the Rev. WILLIAM PAER GRESWELL, a native of Chester, but baptised June 23, 1765, at Tarvin; and was one of two sons of the Rev. John Greswell, an under-master of THE KING'S SCHOOL at Chester.

Educated on the Foundation of that School from 1775 to 1778, he relinquished the position of a pupil for that of an under-master, which he continued to hold for several years. He was distinguished there by his bright classical attainments: but there being at that time no Exhibition from the Chester School to the Universities, he was denied the advantages of a collegiate training; and was ordained as a "literate" in 1789 to the curacy of Blackley, near Manchester. This he exchanged two years afterwards for the incumbency of DENTON; in the ancient black and white timber church of which he faithfully ministered for sixty-three years. His wedded life was blessed with seven sons; five of whom he lived to see become Fellows of Colleges at Oxford, and taking otherwise high positions in the literary and scholastic world. It was at the ripe age of 58 that Mr. GRESWELL, in affectionate remembrance of having been reared within its precinct, gave to his privileged friends the graceful little poem "THE MONASTERY OF ST. WERBURGH," to which Mr. HERFORD has drawn attention, as above. Its venerable author died January 12, 1854, in his 90th year, and was buried in his old chapel-yard at Denton; in the church of which is a brass memento of him, bearing a short genealogical and laudatory inscription.

T. HUGHES.

[506]

JACKY HUXLEY.

[No. 437.—Dec. 25.]

It is not a little singular that in Hendon Church-yard (*vide* Brewer's *Middlesex*, vol. iv., p. 693), there is a tombstone bearing an inscription almost identical with the one at Eccleston. For the sake of comparison, I quote the Hendon example in full:—

"Poor Ralpho lies beneath this rood, and sure he must be blest,

For though he could do nothing good, he meant to do the best.

Think of your souls, ye guilty throng,

Who knowing what is right, do wrong."

Brewer does not give the date of the latter, so that I am unable to form any opinion whether one was copied from the other, or whether both may not have been taken from some other source.

It appears to have been by no means an uncommon circumstance during the past century for a wealthy person to take under his protection, with a free run of the servants' hall, some harmless, half-witted creature,

probably an orphan, and the child of some former tenant of his. Apart from the amusement he afforded the domestics, he frequently acted the part of messenger. To the two instances above mentioned, I may add a third, and much earlier one, which appears in the *Mirror*, vol. 1, p. 399:—

"The following epitaph on John Bailey, a poor idiot, who died in 1777, and was buried at Strathfieldsay, was written by the late Lord Rivers, and was intended as an inscription on a tombstone, the expense of which the servants of his Lordship wished to defray:—

Asleep beneath this humble stone
Lies honest, harmless, simple John,
Who, free from guilty care and strife,
Here closed his inoffensive life;
Unlike the great, his failings few,
He practised all the good he knew,
And did no harm;—his only sin
Was that he lov'd a drop of gin;
Yet when his fav'rite was not near,
Content, he took a horn of beer.

This little village nurs'd and bred him,
And old Lord Rivers clothed and fed him;
'Twas there he liv'd, caress'd by all,
The fav'rite of the servants' hall;
With them he ate his daily bread,
They lov'd him living, mourn him dead,
And now have kindly join'd to raise
This little tombstone to his praise.
Nor should the learned and the wise,
Such humble merit e'er despise;
Who knows but John may have a place
Where wit dare never show its face?
Then farewell, John—God grant that we
May harmless live and die—like thee!"

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[507] CHARLES, EARL OF DERBY.

[No. 466.—Jan. 15]

Permit me to remind you that it was this illused nobleman—the plaintive appeal of whom to Colonel Robert Whitley in 1658 you printed amongst your "Original Documents" as above—who, shortly after the Restoration, presented to the City of Chester that grand old Mace which is the pride and charm of our municipal processions even in these later days. I believe he paid a similar compliment to the infant borough of Liverpool, but with this important discount,—the bauble he presented to Liverpool was of brass, but the mace confided to the good old city was of massive silver, richly treble gilt.

L. L.

[606] THE COMBES, CO: CHESTER.

[No. 470.—Jan. 15.]

In reply to the above query, I know a place so called and situate between the village of Harthill and Bolesworth Castle, in the county of Chester: it consists of

what is now, I believe, a farm with a wood adjoining, in which is a quiet pool fed by a small running stream. These are called "The Combes," and in a map of Cheshire in my possession, "from actual survey by A. Bryant in 1829-31," they are severally noticed as "The Comb" and "Comb Wood."

As your correspondent T. T. says he can see nothing of it in any of his Cheshire maps, perhaps this information may enable him to trace to this place the antiquity which is attached by a London antiquary to "The Combes," and which your readers will doubtless be interested in hearing more about.

WM. COPEMAN.

Bar Mere House, Whitechurch.

[509] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.

[No. 481.—Jan. 22.]

"Jacky Adams," so nicknamed, was not, as E. A. B. says, a beggar, but occupied the post of sacristan (*Anglica*, sexton) to the Cathedral, which would account in a great measure for his "canonical" dress. Poor Jacky died in 1832, just ten years before the other almost equally renowned personage mentioned by E. A. B. Mr. Morris showed a very good print of him at the Town Hall, a short time since, at the *Conversazione*.

Besides several others living about the same time, whom "only some of the oldest inhabitants will be able to recollect," there have been two or three in these latter days—to wit, HARRY JOEY and the BLACKING BOTTLE, as he was called, whose whilom residence was in Watergate Row North.

C. THORNTON.

A few additional particulars about this Cestrian "notable" in humble life will not be unwelcome. He was born in Chester in 1773, and must have been of fair intelligence as a boy, for he was a Founder of The King's School from 1780-85. There he was a school-fellow of Joseph (afterwards the Rev. Joseph) Eaton, son of the quondam Head Master of the same name; and this early association of the two lads was, in the later years of Jacky, turned to good account by himself, though sometimes to the chagrin of Mr. Eaton, who could never be addressed by his old acquaintance by any other name than "Joey." A ludicrous instance of this is related in Hemingway's *Chester*, vol. ii., pp. 375-8; which being probably familiar to most readers of THE SHEAF, we need not repeat here. Jacky never was Sexton of the Cathedral, but simply bell-toller and grave-digger; both which offices he likewise performed for St. Oswald's Church adjoining. He was in local politics a strong "Grosvenor," like his half-witted double, JOHNNY HUXLEY; and both were equally noteworthy, inoffensive characters, who passed each to his final rest without leaving behind him a single personal enemy.

EDITOR.

[510] CAMBRIAN QUERIES.

FLINT, COLESHILL, AND HAWARDEN.

[No. 483.—Jan. 22]

If E. G. S. will refer to page 418, appendix 2, of the 37th Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, he will find that on the Chester Recognizance Rolls there is an entry that on the 20th October, 1423, "the castle and lordship of Hawarden," "the castle and town of Flint," and "the town of Colehill," were with other places, offices, and rents, assigned to Queen Katherine in dower.

H. T.

Curzon Park.

FEBRUARY 11, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

FEB. 12.—Nicholas Stratford, 17th Bishop of Chester, died	1707
„ 13.—Chester illuminated in celebration of Admiral Rodney's Victory.....	1780
„ 14.—Lord Mountjoy, Deputy of Ireland, dined with the Mayor, Henry Hard-ware	1599
„ 15.—Foster Bower, Recorder of Chester, died	1795
„ 16.—Sir William Stanley, of Holt, executed on Tower Hill for complicity with Perkin Warbeck	1494
„ 18.—Henry (VIII.) created 14th Earl of Chester.....	1503

J. H.

Original Documents.

[511] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS, 1665-6.

NO. II.

We resume publication of the OULTON PARK series of Lieutenantcy Papers with the three Letters following, in which the vexed question as to the Repair of CHESTER CASTLE is discussed with some energy.

"For the Right Hon'ble John Lord Cholmondeley, and the rest of my Deputy Lieuten'ts of Cheshire.

"Knowsley, May the 20th, 1667.

"My Lord and Gentlemen,

When you have perused the inclosed (to which yet I have no Answer) you may know the reason why I have not till now communicated them unto you: for I have hitherto expected an Answer, but now despairing of any, I doe send you my Key that

you may dispose of the Militia money as you shall judge best for his Majes'ties service, upon perusal of these letters inclosed and others formerly sent unto you by mee upon this account of Chester Castle. What you doe herein be pleased to give mee an account, I pray you, by the bearer, who shall waite your leisure to receive it. I am,

My Lord and Gentlemen

Yo'r affectionate friend and Servant,

DARBY.

"From the Lord Arlington to the Earle of Derby, brought to the said Earle the 20th of March, 1666-7, being upon a Wednesday.

"My Lord,

His Ma'tie having demanded an account of Chester Castle, the state of, and what progresse is made in the repaires of it upon an Order of the Councell board above a year since; and not finding that advance in the worke as was expected in soe long tyme, hee gave the Governo'r a very peremptory com'and to hasten with all dilligence the perfecting those repaires. And for the greater expedition of the work was pleased att the same tyme to com'and mee very effectually to recom'end to yo'r Lo'pp to see the mizes forth-with levied and paid in for the defraying that charge, according to generall orders heretofore issued to yo'r Lo'pp by his Majes'tie and the Council for that purpose. And that in the meane tyme, till that money comes in, w'ch his Majes'tie finds will be about three thousand Markes, And that itt seems as little as can well bee layed out on the present repaires, yo'r Lo'pp would order that sum to bee paid out of the Militia money of the County to S'r Geoffrey Shakerly and S'r Peter Pindar, for the present carrying on the expences. And hereafter, as the Mizes come in, to see the whole soe borrowed from the Militia money reimburs'd into that fund againe. This his Ma'tie com'ands mee to recom'end particularly to yo'r Lo'pp's care as a matter of p'sent importance to his service. And of which his Majes'tie hath com'anded a speedy account to be given him; which being the occasion of this, I add no more to yo'r Lo'pp's trouble but to assure you'r Lo'pp I am with much respect and truth

My Lord

You'r Lo'pp's most hu'ble servant

ARLINGTON.

"Knowsley, March the 22d, 1666-7.

"My Lord,

"Upon Wednesday last, Sr Geoffrey Shakerley gave me a letter from your Lo'pp with yo'r com'ands therein concerning the Mize due to his Majes'ti, as Earle of Chester, w'ch (if due) is to be raised by Warrant under my hand and seale as Chamberlaine of the County Pallatine of Chester. I make bold to inform your Lo'pp that I much expect the said Mize money to be pardoned by the Act of Indemnity, And that is the reason why I have not dared to issue out my Warrants for raising the same. This being the first part of your Lo'pp's letter, I shall expect your Lo'pp's further com'ands

both therein, as also concerning the Militia money, most of it being already paid into the hands of S'r Geoffrey already, towards the repairs of the Castle of Chester. All this I submit to your Lo'pps, and remaine,

"Your Lo'pp's most humble servant,

DARBY.

It is evident that the gentlemen of the County objected to be saddled with the large expense attending these Repairs; and further, that Earl Derby, the Lord Lieutenant, coincided with their views.

EDITOR.

[512] ENLISTMENT AT PRESTON FOR SERVICE AT
CHESTER, 1686.

The following Order remains upon record in the Preston Guild Books, under date

"25 June, 1686.—Agreed for ye incouragement of such apprentices, journeymen, servants, &c., residing in this Towne as shall list themselves at this time in his Ma'ties service under ye com'and of Peter Shakerley, Esq., Governor of Chester Castle, & p'sent High Sheriff of this co: Pal.: shall upon their retorne w'th a discharge from the p'per officer bee rece'd againe into this Burrough, and as a Reward for their Loyalty and readiness to engage in ye service on this Juncture of time shall be admitted gratis Burgesses by Coppy of Co'rt Roll."

J. E. BAILEY.

Stretford, Manchester.

[513] THE BARON OF KINDERTON'S HERIOT, 1653.

The following entry, which is taken from the Proceedings of the Council of State, 13th June, 1653 (Vol. xxxvij, No. 83; *Cal.* p. 404), relates to the Heriot custom, by which a life tenant was obliged to make to the landlord payment of the best horse, ox, &c., at his death. It was due not only from the next heir in blood, but from any successor. The Baron of Kinderton was Peter Venables, Esq., who occasionally occurs in *Martindale's Life*: b. 1604; d. 1669. He was not a man whom the party in power—Cromwell, as Dictator, and the Barebones Parliament—would care to befriend. "Hunston" is perhaps Hunsterston, S. of Nantwich.

"Order on petition of Richard Hayward, of Hunston, Cheshire, and Margeret, his wife,—setting forth that two heifers given them by their son Thomas Hayward for their maintenance have been taken from them by the Baron of Kynderton, under pretence of being goods forfeited to him by law, as lord of the manor, by the death of the said Thos. Hayward, who was lately sentenced by court martial for killing a man, and was accordingly executed,—that Baron Kynderton be required not to meddle with the same cattle, and if he has taken them away, to restore them, and to make no further seizure till he shall have shown cause to Council, and till they give further order therein."

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Notes.

[514] FEMALE FRIENDLY SOCIETY—WHITSUNTIDE,
1816.

The following account of the first meeting of the CHESTER FEMALE FRIENDLY CLUB I extracted from an old newspaper, and think it may be interesting to tie up in THE SHEAF as a relic of past times:—

"One of the most gratifying and interesting scenes we ever witnessed was exhibited in this city on Tuesday last about twelve o'clock. The members of this Society, neatly habited, wearing white shawls edged with green, moved from Flookersbrook Green in the following order:—

Band of the Royal Cheshire Militia.

Colours, presented by Miss E. Hesketh in a neat and appropriate speech (to whose exertions the institution owes its establishment), bearing the device of a bee hive and a pair of hands joined, with the motto, "Virtue, Friendship, and Industry."

Ven. Archdeacon Clarke. Mr. G. Harrison, Surgeon.

Mrs. Hesketh, President.

Lady Patronesses: Lady Broughton, Mrs. Cotton
Mrs. Green Cotton (for Lady Kilmorey).

Stewardesses: Miss Johnson, Miss Beck, Miss
Emma Hesketh, bearing white wands sur-
mounted by evergreens.

The Members two and two, followed by a number of ladies, among whom were the Miss Heskeths, Mrs. T. Cotton, Miss Cotton, Miss Parker, Mrs. Tonna, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Bagnall, Mrs. Whittle, Miss Broster, Miss Townshend, Miss Hill, Miss Brittain, Miss Oldershaw, &c. The procession moved along Flookersbrook road, over Cow-lane bridge, up the Kale Yards and Abbey Street, through the Cloisters and the Broad Aisle of the Cathedral, into St. Oswald's Church (the organ playing a grand Voluntary) to hear Divine Service. The Revd. Archdeacon Clarke preached a most appropriate sermon from 5th Galatians, 13 and 14 verses. After the service two ladies held plates at the door, and collected £8. The Society then returned in the same order to Flookersbrook, where an excellent dinner was served up on the premises of Mr. Walker, for which each member paid one shilling. In the evening the Society partook of tea at the Ermine, provided at the expense of the benevolent President (Mrs. Hesketh) and several of the members. A dance succeeded, after which, the members retired to their respective homes."

Newton.

H.

[515] GREAT FOOT RACE AT CHESTER.

At the present moment, when a Walking Match for the Championship, in which a Chester man will form a prominent feature, is about to come off at Manchester, I venture to submit the following account of a Foot Race at Chester, 60 years ago, as an appropriate contribution

to THE CHESHIRE SHEAF. I copy the paragraph from a number of the *Chester Courant* for Nov. 4th, 1828, which I purchased at the time, and which has scarcely ever since been out of my possession.

"The much talked of match between Samuel Lewis, of Coatbrook (surnamed the *Antelope* of Delamere Forest) and John West, one of Lord Belgrave's footmen, came off yesterday morning on the race course in this city. The match created extraordinary interest in this part of the country, and in the sporting circles generally; as Lewis had already gained very considerable local celebrity, and West had outstripped many capital runners in nine several contests, among whom was the celebrated Jackson. Neither of the men had ever been beaten; and up to the last moment the least odds on either side would have found customers in plenty.—No place in the kingdom perhaps, is so well calculated as the Chester course for a contest of this sort—combining, as it does, a beautiful piece of turf for the men, with every facility for witnessing the race to advantage from the Walls, and the gradual elevation beneath them. Mr. Kearsley, of the Nag's Head Inn, the stake-holder, at his own expense, had the ground mowed, and rolled for several days previous, and nothing could possibly be in finer condition. The concourse of spectators assembled was immense, and quite equal to any thing that has been seen on the most crowded day in the race week. The utmost exertions of the Constables and the persons appointed to keep the course would have been utterly unavailing, were it not for the politeness and kind consideration of Major Streatfield, who at present commands the 87th Fusiliers, now stationed here. With great *bonhomie*, the gallant Major brought the whole regiment on the ground, and they soon formed an effectual *cordon militaire* on each side throughout the whole distance (160 yards) by which the encroachments of the crowd were restricted to the railing. A small detachment was also placed at the extreme end, beyond the goal, to keep the space clear at that point,—a very prudent precaution, considering the manner in which the race terminated.

"At a few minutes before 12 o'clock, both the men came to the scratch. West, who was in his *buff*, with the exception of a pair of drawers, exhibited a fine muscular figure; Lewis was more of the *Antelope* shape, and wore a light calico jacket and drawers.—After one false start, they set off at the top of their speed, Lewis, if any thing, having the advantage for the first twenty or thirty yards; from thence to about midway, West was a-head about a yard. The race was now beautiful beyond description.—Lewis pressed forward with all his might, and gained gradually upon his opponent until it was almost impossible to say who had the lead; and in this style the men continued, *nose and nose*, to the goal. At the critical moment, Lewis sprang forward, and touched the ribbon *with his hand*, and his friends claimed the victory. A long discussion

took place, and the umpires not being able to agree, a referee was called in, who ultimately decided in favour of West (who ran with his forearm at right angles) as his *body* reached the ribbon before that of the other. Lewis' friends, however, decline to give up the stakes without an appeal to the Jockey Club, and offer to double the stakes and run the ground over again. Thus the matter remains at present; and as the articles are wholly silent as to what shall be considered the criterion in so near a thing as this, it is the opinion of many well-informed persons that Lewis will be ultimately declared the victor.—We understand that up to the hour of our going to press no demand had been made of the stakes from the holder, Mr. Kearsley.—The race was run in a little better than 15 seconds."

Little more remains to be said, except that the judgment of the referee was confirmed, West being held entitled to the stakes; and this decision has ever since been accepted as law in all similar contests. West shortly afterwards left the Grosvenor service, and I have no further knowledge of him. Lewis continued to reside at the Forest for many years afterwards; and when the Chester Autumn Sports were established, he was appointed the official referee, which post he continued to hold until his death, a few years only ago.

Eastgate.

E. T.

Queries.

[516]

ANCIENT SKIPPET.

A writer in the *Illustrated News* some time ago called attention to the "Hampers" and "Skippets" in which old records were once preserved, and he says:

"In the curious Calendar of the Treasury, made in the year 1823, one of the hampers is said to have been marked with the figure of a rude gallows, because it contained the bonds of the men of Chester, to be of good behaviour to their Earl, and the sign was perhaps intended to betoken their fate in case of failure."

Mr. Jeafferson has already given us so many proofs of his acquaintance with the old records of our county, that if he can find time to do so, he will perhaps tell us something more about the particular "Skippet" alluded to above. I remember hearing some thirty years back that *some of the Chester Records* had been removed to London, among them a *parcel of the broken bonds of the men of Chester*. Is it possible that the "figure of a rude gallows" marked upon one hamper mentioned by the writer alluded to, meant to imply that the "men of Chester" whose bonds had been placed in the hamper had failed to keep them, and had then been hanged? Our ancient Earls were exacting, and ancient Cestrians may have been somewhat revolu-

tionary, and rather than submit to Norman exactions they chose to suffer death. The written incident, and the traditional tale, between them, entitle us to ask for information; and if by asking this can be had, none of your readers will blame me for adding this small straw to your SHEAF.

DOMESDAY.

[517] BATTLE OF BRUNANBURGH.

The Saxon King Athelstan ascended the throne A.D. 924; and died, aged 46 (having reigned 17 years), A.D. 941.

Without going into details, I may just add what "Casell's England" says about the matter I wish to remark upon. Speaking about the controversy between the Saxons and the Danes, it says, "The two armies met at Brunanburgh, where a bloody battle was fought, in which victory finally declared for Athelstan, and the allies lost Constantine, King of Scotland, six Irish and Welsh Kings, and twelve Earls, and General Officers."

This victory was chiefly owing to the valour of Turketel, the king's cousin, who was afterwards Abbot of Croyland. The Abbey over which this soldier-priest presided, was subsequently destroyed by the Danish invasion, the priests being massacred at the altar as they were singing their Aves.

On the Ordnance Survey for Bromborough Parish, the "Wargreaves" is mentioned as the site of a battle between Athelstan and the Danes, 937. I do not know personally the spot, still it may be interesting to ascertain whether any record remains of what must have been a sanguinary struggle for victory, and surely something must have been found on the spot corroborating the evidence of the battle?

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

Replies.

[518] WEEKLY DIARY OF LOCAL EVENTS.

[January 15, 1879.]

Under the above heading it is stated:—

"Jan. 20.—William Cleaver, D.D., consecrated Bishop of Chester..... 1806."

This is incorrect, not only according to Hemingway I., 814, but also the local papers of that period; for on January 4, 1788, the local press records:—

"Tuesday's Gazette (Jan. 1) contains the account of his Majesty's having been pleased to order a conge d'elire to pass the great seal, empowering the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Chester, to elect a bishop of that see, and recommending the Rev. Dr. Wm. Cleaver thereto."

And on January 25, 1788:—

"Sunday last (Jan. 20) Dr. Cleaver was consecrated (by the Archbishop of York) Bishop of this

Diocese. The Bishops of Durham and Rochester assisted, and Dr. Radcliffe, Prebendary of Ely, preached the sermon."

In 1799 Bishop Cleaver was translated to Bangor, and from thence to St. Asaph, which see he occupied till his death, May 15, 1816.

F. J. M.

[519] TOURISTS' RHYMES.

[No. 358.—Nov. 13.]

The following verses I copied from the visitors' book at the old Royal Oak, Bettws-y-Coed, more than twenty years ago. They express—very humorously, and evidently written by one of the sufferers—a perpetual source of annoyance to artists during summer months, whilst engaged in sketching out of doors at that favourite Welsh village:—

"The frequent scratch,—the frequent sigh,
Of those who sketch, or fain would try,—
And pimpl'd cheeks, and restless frame,—
The curse of artists all proclaim.
Th' unwearied smudge from day to day,
Who does his pencil's power display
On scenes in midgy Bettws land,
Is bit till he can't sit or stand.
Yes, soon as evening shades prevail,
Here midges teach a wond'rous tale;
How they, the smallest fly on earth,
Can make men rue they e'er had birth;
Whilst artists cheeks like coals shall burn,
Nose, ears, and forehead, each in turn:
Confirm'd's the fact, how midges dole
Their pois'nous bite from chin to pole.
What though with oiled face we cheat 'em,
Or madden'd, with air feelers beat 'em;
What though with baccy smoke we all
Do battle,—and should myriads fall,—
The plague on't is, they no less swarm,
Myriads still live to do us harm,
For ever singing, I opine,
'The blood of artists is divine!'"

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[520] THE COMBES, CO: CHESTER.

[Nos. 470, 508.—Jan. 14, Feb. 5.]

I believe a combe is a cavity: hence the words "honey comb," and coomb, a large measure for wheat. Bayley's *English Dictionary* (fol. ed., 1786) has the following:—COMB (Comb, Sax.): A valley between two hills with trees on both sides; and, "Comba Terræ" (old charters), a low piece of ground. Cwm, in Welsh, has a like signification. Bayley's description is an accurate one of Harthill Combes, mentioned by your correspondent in the last SHEAF; but the running stream and the quiet pool (which are there), and the farm (which is *not* there), are not (as I understand the term) necessary component parts of a "combe." The word is used in a great number of instances in com-

pound names in the southern counties, especially in Somersetshire and Dorsetshire. I know of only one such use (Combermere) in Cheshire.

Harthill Rectory.

W. LUTNER.

[521] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.—JACKY ADAMS.

[No. 481.—Jan. 22.]

The following Epitaph was written "To the Memory of John *alias* Jacky Adams, sometimes Sacristan (*vulgo* Sexton) of this Cathedral.

Hold! reader hold! lest thy incautious tread,
Derange these grass grown mansions of the dead;
For know that he whose handy works surround,
Himself reposeth underneath this mound,
And who can say, but even now his shade
Hovers around these triumphs of his spade.
Perchance thou knew'st him? then, with candour

own,
An abler Sexton, Chester ne'er hath known;
Nor was his skill to this one craft confined,
As they best knew who harmonize by wind;
Since Deans and Prebends—yea, and Bishops too,
Have heard the organ play'd when Jacky blew!
Alas! poor Jacky, or alas! poor John,
For John or Jacky were to him all one;
Tho' names familiar, when to some applied,
Will rouse the feelings of offended pride:
But this he learnt not, till his too free speeches
Dissolv'd his tenure of the Parson's breeches.
John's wits, 'tis true, were not of subtle kind,
Nor did he boast of energy of mind;
But tho' to sense poor Jacky's claim was weak,
Yet was he gentle, inoffensive, meek;
Save when some fool, possess't of none of these,
Chose to torment him, other fools to please.
But this is o'er; no more the biting jeer
Shall wake to anger him who slumbereth here:
No more, with spade uplifted, shall he chase
The noisy urchins from this sacred place—
But calmly resting till the trump be given,
He then shall rise, and wing his course to heaven.
Reader, if you were prone to tease the man,
Repent, or follow him you never can!

Poor Jacky died in 1832.

"A BROTHER OF THE TRADE."

FEBRUARY 18, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- FEB. 21.—Beeston Castle, being ruinous, seized by the Roundheads 1642
 „ 22.—Richard Dutton, Mayor of Chester, summoned before the Privy Council... 1574
 „ 23.—St. Peter's spire, Chester, damaged by lightning 1788

- „ 24.—Hugh Cholmondeley installed Dean of Chester..... 1806
 „ 25.—The sun totally eclipsed: the like darkness never before seen..... 1597
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[522] THE BUTTERSHOPS, CHESTER.

Early in the sixteenth century, EASTGATE STREET must have been, as indeed it still is in a large sense continues to be, one of the most picturesque streets in Britain. The PRINCE OF WALES, when he visited Chester in 1869, to open the Town Hall, exclaimed as he seated himself in the Mayor's open carriage, and looked towards the High Cross from the Grosvenor Hotel, "What a glorious picture! What a beautiful skyline!" If that were so then, what must have been the prospect up this street two centuries-and-a-half ago,—on every house a gable, every house-front a rich fretwork of carved oak, while stiff and stark brickwork, and such like monotony of building, were all but unknown.

One of the more prominent erections, jutting right out into the street, was "THE BUTTERSHOPS," a block of building occupying, with the adjoining "Milk Stoups," almost the entire site of that *cul-de-sac* still standing out at the north-western end of the street, and now owned by Messrs. Oakes, Williams, Spencer, &c. There, in fact, stood the Butter and Milk Market, just as the Fish Market of Tudor times stood at the top corner of Watergate Street.

The first reference to the "Buttershops" that I can at present recall is as follows. Among the Gabull Rents, with the collection of which the City Sheriffs were annually chargeable, I find recorded in 1533, in the mayoralty of Henry Gee:—

"In Estgate Strete.

"Mayster Doctor Bothe, for the buttershopes now in the houldinge of Rauffe Rogers and others, that Lyeth nere the northgat strete estwardes.....vjs. viijd."

Even in King Henry's days, the "Butter-shops" building was going rapidly to decay, and a generation afterwards had evidently become such an eyesore and nuisance to the neighbourhood, and withal dangerous to the traffic, that efforts, ultimately successful, were made to get rid of the structure.

Between 1533 and 1592, the property had changed hands, and instead of "Mayster Doctor Bothe," one William Leche was now the owner. At an Assembly held in the Common Hall before Thomas Lynyll, mayor, 15 July, 1593, there came on a question

"TOUCHING THE BUYINGE OF THE BUTTERSHOPS.

"MR. MAIOR of this Citie informeth this Assemblie how he hath bought the Butter shops and howses there of William Leche in fee ferme for xx li. p'ches, and notw'thanding proffereth the same Bargayne to this Citie to builde vpon if it should be soe thoughte meete by this Assemblie; wherevpon by All this Assemblie it was ordered and Concluded vpon that this incorporac'on shall haue and Accepte of the same p'ches. And yet notw'thandinge Mr. Maior hath Offered to referre it to the Considerac'on of foure persons, whether the Citie to take or leave the same Contracte, soe their resolucon be geuen therein before St. James thappostle nexte Comeinge, soe as if the same foure persons shall thinke not Convenient for this Citie to haue the said p'ches, that then the Citie would graunte him two partes of the trees, Already bought to and for the vse of this Citie, at the same price as the same trees were bought: whose motion was thought reasonable soe as fyve persons might Consider and resolve thereof. Wherevpon by all the whole Assemblie Mr. Edmund Gamull, Mr. Will'm Maasy, Aldermen and Justices of Peax, Mr. Will'm Aldersey and Mr. John flyton, Aldermen, now thr'ers, and PeterNewall, Marchent, were Chosen to haue Considerac'on, and to consider whether meete and benefieciall for this Citie to purches the saide howses and Landes or not, and of their resolucon's thereof to Acquaynt Mr. maior before thesaide feaste day of St. James nexte Comeinge: and if their resolucon's therein shal be that the p'ches of the premisses Can not be benefieciall for this Citie, nor meete for them to deale therein, then the Citie thereof to be discharged and m'r maior at Libertie to proceede upon his former bargaine touchinge the same, and to haue the buyinge of the saide two parts of the saide trees Accordinglye.

How the negociations for the purchase progressed, and what was done at last with the property, shall form the subject of a future communication to THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[523]

MOW COP DIALECT.

(Seventh Paper.)

AT AFTER. After, afterwards.

"Come to me, Tyrrel, soon, at after supper."

—Shakespeare. *K. Richard III.*, a. iv., s. 3.

CRINKLE. Wrinkle.

"When shee had tane the mantle,
And cast itt her about,
Upp att her great toe
It began to crinkle and crows."

—Percy's *Reliques*.

HYLL. To cover. Well *hyll*ed and filled, i.e. well clothed and fed. A.S., *hellan*, German, *hüllen*, to cover.

"Murder is so wlatoom (loathsome) and abominable To God, that is so just and reasonable, That he ne will not suffer it *hyll*ed be."

—Chaucer, *C. T.*, *The Nun's Priest's Tale*.

"Next did Sir Triamond unto their sight
The face of his dear Canaose *unhela*."

—Spenser, *F. Q.*, 2, iv. v.

TRAPESESIN'. Tramping. Wet or snowy weather gives to this word almost, if not wholly, its peculiar significance: thus, *trapesin'* is usually understood to mean tramping about in the dirt and wet.

"I want none o' your money, you'd better take care on't, else you'll get it stool from yer, if you go *trapesin'* about the fields like a mad woman a-that-way."

—George Eliot. *Adam Bede*.

"I am to go *trapesing* with lady Kerry and Mrs. Pratt to see sights all this day."

—Dean Swift. *Journal to Stella*. Letter the Eleventh.

WITHEY. A species of the willow, the branches of which, when in flower, are called *palms*, the flowers themselves being called *goslins* (goslings).

"A *withey* twig

With little yellow *goslings* dotted o'er."

—George Heath, the Staffordshire Moorland Poet.

AMPERLASH. Saucy, impudent, abusive language.

"I'll have none o' thy *amperlash*, soo I tell thee."

GRIDDLY. Gritty.

JARG. To quarrel, to jar. "They rayther *jarg'nt*."

STROGLE'T. Streaked, striped.

WIDOWMAN or WIDOWMON. A widower.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Queries.

[524] THE KING'S POOL, CHESTER.

Can you give me any information when this POOL, situate close to the Old Dee Bridge, was first so called, and also when salmon first had royal privileges here? It is very easily to be seen that when at low water, and when but little water is coming over the CAUSEWAY, the fish are in a complete trap; and had they not got a legal and prescriptive right, they might be taken out by scores. KINGSLEY, on pleading for this royal fish, "hoped for a good time coming for this worthy gentleman salmon, etc." In this old city, however, we have, as above, an early proof of our forefathers' care for the preservation of the royal fish. R. D. J.

[525] THE PUBLIC STOCKS OF CHESHIRE.

These public "houses of correction" for the too common frequenters of public-houses are now not in use; many, very many, have been swept entirely away from sight, if not from mind. The older inhabitants, though, will yet remember them and the ribald scenes aforesaid enacted around them.

Particulars of the STOCKS now remaining, as also those destroyed or laid aside, in the many villages of Cheshire would be useful for future enquirers, and, I think, very suitable to the columns of THE SHEAF.

J. H.

[526] THE BOUNDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

Have the official particulars of the BOUNDARIES of Chester been published in an accessible form? The details of several early "perambulations" are, I understand, preserved among the Chester Records in the Town Hall.

If anyone is so fortunate as to have copies of them, the Editor would probably print them at his convenience; for they would be useful both for reference and comparison, and I should think interesting to your readers generally.

J. H.

Replies.

[527] CAPTAIN THOMAS SANDFORD.

[Nos. 211, 417, 462.—Aug. 14, Dec. 11, Jan. 8.]

Some erroneous impressions, as to the time and place of death of this Cheshire notability, have arisen from the want of a little attention to the various modes of computing the year in use at the same period.

The *Historical* year has from a very early period commenced from Jan. 1, but the *Civil, Ecclesiastical*, and *Legal* year, from the beginning of the 14th century until Jan. 1, 1753 (when it was altered by Act of Parliament), commenced on March 25; hence from Jan. 1 to the latter date the year was written in this form (*e.g.*) 1643-4, the latter figure always denoting the year according to our present mode of reckoning. This has been the misleading cause of your correspondent E. G. S.'s supposition that SANDFORD may have escaped from Nantwich to have subsequently met his fate at Beeston! Even Lysons (*Cheshire*, p. 700) has assigned the date of the Nantwich siege to January, 1644, whereas had he used the formula 1643-4, he would not have appeared to be at variance with the dates as stated in SANDFORD's letters, viz., January, 1643.

That SANDFORD was killed before Nantwich appears to be tolerably certain. To the testimony of this already adduced let me add that of two independent chronicles.

The Parliamentary General, Edmund Ludlow (of whom Cromwell was very jealous), fled to Switzerland at the time of the Restoration, and whilst in exile wrote his *Memoirs*, in the first volume of which (published in 1698) there is at p. 77 the following passage:—

Part of the troops "who came out of Ireland landed at Chester, and drew before Nantwich: they were commanded by one CAPT. SANDFORD, Brother to Sir William Sandford, a worthy person of Gray's-Inn, to whom he had solemnly promised never to engage against the Parliament: Yet did he send in a very threatening Summons to the Town, and seconded it with a most furious Assault, whilst the works were but slenderly defended, the Guard consisting for the most part of Townsmen, who were then gone to dinner: But it so happened, that a Boy of the Age of fifteen, firing a Musquet from the Town, shot him dead in the place, which discouraged his Souldiers from any further Attempt."

In *Providence Improved*, that remarkable Diary kept by Edward Burghall, the Puritanical Vicar of Acton, is the following:—

"Thursday morning (Jan. 18.) at break of day, they strongly attacked the town on every side; and the soldiers and townsmen as stoutly defended themselves for an hour or more: very great valour was shown on both sides, but at last the enemy fled away as fast as they could, leaving their scaling-ladders and wood-kids they had brought with them, some arms, and a hundred dead bodies behind them, whereof CAPTAIN SANDFORD was one, who was killed upon the spot, where one of his Firelocks was sore wounded and brought into the town, but died quickly. The town soldiers had the pillage of them all, and their arms, and lost but six common men. There was found in CAPTAIN SANDFORD's pockets, when he was stripped, a paper containing the order of assault for taking the town. The field word was, 'God and a good cause.' A letter also was found upon him, dated January 13" (quoted by E. G. S. as a postscript to another letter). "Another was found, dated the 15th" (the first one quoted by E. G. S.).

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[528] THE TWO NORTHGATE BRIDGES, CHESTER.

[Nos. 361, 465, 494.—Nov. 13, Jan. 8, 29.]

It has struck me, since reading the Replies as to the original line proposed for the Canal near the Northgate, that a hollow, lying about 100 yards behind the houses on the north side of George-street, and parallel with it, is a remain of the first cutting. To confirm this, on going down the entry at No. 17, you will see the rock cut three or four yards deep; and behind No. 23 a strong wall in the same line, and about the same height above the hollow, which is now partly filled with cottages at right angles with the street. No doubt when the tumble-down houses, recently bought by the Town Council, are removed from the corner of George-

street and Victoria-road, some further trace may be found at the north end of the houses, though these latter were no doubt standing when the Canal itself was cut.

CHAS. CANDLIN.

Alyn View, Mold.

[529] THE SILVER BASON O' CHESTER.

[No. 378.—Nov. 20.]

Old Peacham's reference in 1609 to a "Silver Bason" as one of the public sights of Chester in his day, has never yet been satisfactorily explained; nor am I sure that much can really be offered towards a solution of the puzzle. It is well nigh certain that none of the parishes of the city owned any such treasure amongst their church plate; and the shattered remnants of the old religious or trade guilds of that day would scarcely be in any better condition. The Corporation Plate seems therefore to be our last resource.

In the active mayoralty of Henry Gee, anno 1583, a terrier was taken of the more important pieces of plate then in the city's keeping; and therein I find the two following items amongst many others:—

"Inp'mis, A standing cupp w't a couer weyng
xxxij ti ounces & iij quarters, of the gyfte of Mr.
Rauf Rogerson.

"It'm, A flat bowle waing xx vno's, of the gift of
folk dutton, ald'."

Perhaps one of these two may have been the Silver Bason o' Chester, noticed by Peacham; and if so, I am sorry to add, they were both of them melted down to make coin during the celebrated Siege of Chester.

T. HUGHES.

[580] JOHN DOD, THE DECALOGIST.

[Nos. 401, 430.—Dec. 4, 18.]

In a, "Life of the Author," prefixed to Bishop Wilkins' *Mathematical and Philosophic Works*, 5th edition, London: MDCCVIII. (*penses me*) it is stated that the Bishop "was born at Fawlsley, near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, in the house of the Reverend and well-known Mr. John Dod, who wrote upon the Commandments, he being his grandfather by the Mother's side" (p. iii.), and in another place (p. vi.) mention is made of the Bishop's "charity for Dissenters by reason of his education under Mr. John Dod, his grandfather, a truly Pious and Learned man; who dissented in many things from the Church of England long before the separation which afterwards follow'd upon Archbishop Laud's Severities and new Impositions." I think these quotations prove very conclusively that Ormerod is correct in saying that the Decalogist was uncle of Arohdeacon Dod, of Malpas, and the editor of the New Edition of the *History of Cheshire* is wrong in stating as he does—on the authority of "Notes by Sir Philip de M. Grey-Egerton, Bt."—that the Rector of Malpas (Dr. Thomas Dod) was elder brother of John Dod the Decalogist (o.f., Vol. II, pp. 612, 688).

Gatley Road, Cheshire.

P. M. HERFORD.

[531] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.—SAMMY GRICE.

[Nos. 481, 509.—Jan. 22, Feb. 5.]

This eccentric character used to be employed by the Brewers in cutting vent pegs, which occupation formerly was the usual manner of spending the time by the men at the Cross, who were constantly "whittling" away.

The following epitaph was written upon poor Sammy in June, 1822, under the signature of "John":—

'Scaped from a world of ridicule and pains,
This verdant corpse o'erlays the brief remains
Of SAMMY GRICE—a man of much renown,
Within the circle of his native town.
Long, of that town, was he the current jest,
And schoolboys struggled which could tease him best.
His pigmy stature, waddling gait, and phiz,
Oft furnish'd laughter to the empty quiz;
Whilst they who scan'd him with a feeling eye,
Pity'd his harmless nature, and pass'd by.
On Sundays, in his scarlet coat attir'd
And reverend hat, by waggish fold admir'd,
Sure as the Sabbath came its weekly round,
At Church the harmless idiot was found;
When done, though pleas'd his finery to view,
He reach'd his hand to welcome all he knew.
And with a smile that spoke his welcome true,
He'd gabble forth "Well Sir! How do? How do?"
But ah! alas! the ruthless tapster Death,
Hath plac'd a vent peg on poor Sammy's breath,
And all his little virtues could not save
His little body from this little grave;
His soul they can,—his soul to Mercy giv'n,
I trust, thro' Mercy now hath rest in heav'n,
Where they who hold deformity a jest,
Will ne'er intrude to mar his heav'nly rest.

Ledsam.

R. M.

["John," the author of this and similar epitaphs on prominent local characters of that day, was JOHN VENABLES, a native of Chester, and one of the sons of Mr. Samuel Venables, for many years Master of the Blue Coat Hospital at Chester.—EDITOR.]

[532] SIR THOMAS EXMEWE.

[No. 492.—Jan. 29.]

The surname borne by this Tudor Lord Mayor seems to indicate a Devonshire origin; for I find it occasionally spelt *Exmere* and *Exmore*. It is quite certain, however, that there was a branch of the family settled in Wales, and accustomed to bear arms. SIR THOMAS EXMEWE's connection with this branch seems to have been only partially acknowledged at Herald's College, probably because the evidence of his descent was not legally established. The College of Arms therefore varied the arms granted to Sir Thomas, from those of his presumed ancestors, by assigning to him the following coat:—"argent, a chevron compony, purple and of the first, between three escallop shells gules,

within a bordure of the last, charged alternately with three leopards' faces, or, and as many bezants" I think, moreover, heraldic authorities as a body would agree with me in the opinion that the charges grafted on the Exmewe arms point to one or other of the south-western counties as the original seed-plot of the family.

F.S.A.

[533]

AITCHES.

[No. 501.—Feb. 5]

Referring to the query of W. T. K. in your last, the expression has been familiar to me as long as I can remember, and is generally used by the country people to express any sudden pain or seizure, and is especially applied to giddiness or faintness. A "faint aitch" is a most common complaint, which few old women have not experienced sometime in their lives.

The word is commonly acknowledged to be another pronunciation of *ache* (what uneducated person would suppose it could possibly be pronounced "ake?"), the *ch* being soft, as in *Bache* or *Lache*.

There are a great many curious words currently in use, and perfectly understood by country people, the origin and derivation of which would be difficult to trace. One just occurring to me is the common expression "couth," meaning a cold; and on getting well again it is no uncommon thing to be told, on enquiry, that they are "getting quite *pear*t and *cock*et again."

Saighton.

W. M. B.

In confirmation of the theory that the familiar Cheshirism "Aitches" is merely an old-fashioned pronunciation of *aches*, W. T. K. may be reminded of the line in the "Tempest," where Shakespeare clearly intended *aches* to be pronounced as a dissyllable—

"Fill all thy bones with aches; make thee roar

That beasts shall tremble at thy din."—(Act 1, sc. 2.)

Those who have talked with old play-goers can hardly fail to have been told of the mighty uproar to which John Kemble exposed himself by persisting in giving out the word as "aitches," in deference to the rhythm, and not, as the "house" clamoured for him to do, as a monosyllable according to the modern pronunciation. To judge from the way in which I have heard the Cheshire poor use the word "aitches," I should say they mean by it some sudden attack, such as shivering or fainting fits. And it seems probable from the way in which Prospero threatens Caliban with aches, as companions of "cramps and side stitches that shall pen thy breath up," that, in old English, *ache* did not merely mean the dull wearing pain to which we mostly apply the word, but also sharp and sudden suffering.

S. B.

Tarvin.

FEBRUARY 25, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

FEB. 26.—Sir W. Dawes, Bart., 18th Bishop, translated to York	1713
„ 27.—Roman coins dug up in King-street, Chester	1776
MAR. 1.—George Cotes consecrated 2nd Bishop of Chester	1554
„ 2.—Ceadda, 5th Bishop of Mercia, died ...	672
„ 4.—Chester Cathedral Bells recast.....	1805

Original Documents.

[534] LENT, AND THE BUTCHERS.

To-day being ASH WEDNESDAY, it will not be inopportune to quote from the CHESTER ASSEMBLY BOOKS an Order relating to the killing and use of Flesh during LENT. It will not be necessary here to do more than remind our readers that by the ecclesiastical and common law none were allowed to eat flesh during the forty days of Lent, unless a dispensation were obtained on account of serious illness or debility. This law practically made Lent an enforced holiday to the butchers, whose worldly interests would now and then naturally come into collision with their religious scruples; as was the case with this local sinner, John Bryne, whose offence is dealt with in the following Order:—

"At an Assemlie Houlden in the Com'en hall w'thin the Citie of Chester, the fryday beinge the twelue:h day of march Anno R^ene Elizabeth, &c. Tricesimo tercio, &c. [591], William Massey, maior.

"John Bryne, butcher, for killinge flesh in Lent and for not cominge to Mr. maior, sent for, is to submit him self by A Daie, or to be disfranchised.

"And furthermore, where John Bryne, butcher, Complayned vpon for killinge of fleshe, and being sent for by the s'iant of the peace, And com'aunderd vpon payne of his Othe to come before Mr. maio'r, came non; motion is made what is to be done towchinge this his Contempte, Wherevpon it is considered by this whole Assembly, that tyme shalbe given him betwene this and monday nexte to come before Mr. maior and submitt him selfe, or ells hauinge warninge thereof, or warninge left at his howse, to be disfranchized."

Nothing further appears in the Assembly Books on this matter: it is presumed, therefore, that Bryne in the end submitted, with as good a grace as he well could, to the Mayor's fiat, and was contented thereafter neither to kill or sell "flesh" within the forty days of proscription by the Law and the Church. EDITOR.

[585] ROSTHERNE PARISH ACCOUNTS.

The following gleanings from our Churchwardens' Books will not be without interest to the readers of THE SHEAF:—

"1673.

Paid for this Booke to register the p'lah accompts.....	00 : 06 : 00
Paid to the Officer that came to view the Kings Armes, and spent then...	00 : 08 : 00
Paid for Repayre of the Lower Clap, and for Timber and grand [P grave] Shovel and Iron werke.....	02 : 19 : 08
Paid for Hedge hoggs, 8d. apiece, 115 in the whole.....	00 : 19 : 02
Paid for Maulps [Moles] 1d. each, the whole number 180	00 : 15 : 00

1674.

Paid for foxes taken, 7 in Rothsterne, one in High Leigh, 2 in Meyre, 5 in Millington, the whole number 15, at 1s. apiece, Total.....	00 : 15 : 00
Paid for Hedge hoggs, 201, at 2d. apiece	01 : 13 : 06
Paid for Malpes, &c., whole number 201, at 1d. apiece.....	00 : 16 : 09

1675.

Paid to the Paritor when he brought Excommunication	00 : 00 : 08
Paid for ringing the 29th day of May 1681.—Paid for a new Black Cloak for the Beire	00 : 10 : 00
1682.—for a Badger	01 : 00 : 00
1686.—Paid to Dr. Hunt for Care off Thomas Heywood's Leg or Thigh.....	00 : 01 : 00

„ —for ringing for Joy off the subduing the Rebellion	01 : 06 : 00
1688.—Paid for Poplar Planks for Church	00 : 03 : 04
„ —Given to distressed passengers	00 : 01 : 00
1689.—Spent when King W'm & Queen Mary were procleymed	00 : 01 : 00

1695.—Given to severall passengers coming with passes, most of them being decayed gentlemen.....	00 : 01 : 06
1696.—Paid for making rails at Communion table	00 : 08 : 06
1698.—Given George Davies, in earnest for repairing the steeple ...	02 : 06 : 00

„ —Paid to the Mason that came from Warrington to view the steeple.....	00 : 01 : 00
„ —Paid the Masons for their work at ye steeple.....	00 : 01 : 00
„ —Paid to Peter Robinson for keeping foolish lad, in part	00 : 06 : 00

„ —Paid for bread and drink att burial	01 : 05 : 00
„ —Paid the King's tax at the burial	00 : 04 : 09
„ —Paid the King's tax at the burial	00 : 04 : 00

Rostherne Manor.

WILBRAHAM EGERTON.

Notes.

[586] DOCTOR EVERARD MAYNWARINGE.

"*Morbus Polyrhizos & Polymorphus*. A Treatise of the Sourvy. Examining the different Opinions and Practice, of the most solid and grave Writers, concerning the Nature and Cure of this Disease. . . . With a true account of Tobacco, relating to this Disease. The fourth Impression corrected and augmented. By Everard Maynwaringe, Doctor in Physiok. Whereunto is annexed *Pharmacopœia Domestica*. London. Printed by J. M. and are to be sold by Peter Parker, at the Leg and Star in Cornhill, against the Royal Exchange, 1679. 8vo."

I have lately been looking over a copy of the above work with the view of ascertaining some particulars of the writer. He was born in 1630. He seems to have written, according to Watt, a number of medical works, published between 1645 (1665?) and 1697. Four of them are advertised at the end of the present volume, namely:—*Praux Medicorum; Tabidorum Narratio; Vita Sana & Longa; and Medicus Absolutus Adesporos*. The preface to the above Treatise on Sourvy (the first edition of which was dated 1665, the third, with additions, 1663) is dated from his house in Fetter-lane, London; and a passage at page 45 shows that he was practising there during the Plague. There is a complimentary letter to himself from Dr. Christopher Lawrence, of Dublin, dated September, 1664. At page 76 Maynwaringe speaks of patients in Derbyshire and Cheshire, the latter being a case at "Maxfield." At page 83 he says that he was some time in the colonies of Virginia and Maryland.

There are several noticeable passages in this work, including a eulogy on King James I's celebrated "Counterblast." These passages were extracted by one J. H., and printed as a broadside, in 1672, along with extracts out of the *Counterblast*. Concerning drink for scorbutic persons, Maynwaringe thus prescribes: "Ale I do not approve of, such as commonly we have in London and the Southern parts of England; high coloured, thick, and muddy. But such Ale as is frequent in Derbyshire and the Northern parts, being clear, citrine, thin, and well boyled, is wholesome drink." (Page 160.)

The work contains a 4to portrait of the author, in lace collar and flowing wig, inscribed "Everardus Maynwaringe, Medicinæ Doctor, Ætatis Sum, 38. 1668." It was engraved by B. White.

The references cited seem to point to his local origin. Grainger (v. 222) says that he was descended from the same family with Arthur Maynwaringe, a name much better known to the world. He adds that this family,

which had been long seated in Cheshire, was anciently one of the most honourable in the kingdom. Mr. Ashmole's first wife was of this family. He tells us in his *Diary*, page 83, that his cousin Everard Maynwaring died 22nd of February. 1657. This was probably the Doctor's father. Ashmole, 1649, married Eleanor, a daughter of Peter Mainwaring, of Smallwood, Cheshire; and Henry Newcome, successively minister of Gooesetree, Gawsworth, and Manchester, married 1648, her sister Elizabeth. "Brother Ashmole" is frequently mentioned in Newcome's *Diary*, but nothing is there said of Dr. Everard Maynwaring.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[537] THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.

In looking over some old MS. papers and drawings lately, I came across an extract from a letter written to one of the daughters of the late Mr. HARRISON, by GIBSON, the sculptor, and which is so interesting in itself, and valuable as a testimony to the ability and worth of that eminent architect, that I send it for insertion in *THE SHEAF*, as I am sure it will be read with pride and pleasure. It runs as follows:—

"I was in Chester only long enough to see Mr. Harrison's noble architecture, so pure and grand! There is nothing equal to the Greek, but it requires a very refined taste to enjoy it. He was great in his profession, and I never forgot my visit to him in Chester. He has left a splendid memorial, nor does he require more."

Chichester-street.

FRANCIS PALIN.

[538] SIR WATKIN AND CHESTER ELECTION.

Former Sir Watkin Williams Wynns have been more than once mixed up both with parliamentary and municipal elections at Chester. In a pamphlet, "History of the Contested Election in Chester 1812," when the candidates were JOHN EGERTON, of Oulton Park, Esq., and E. V. TOWNSHEND, of Wincham, Esq.; against GENERAL GROSVENOR and SIR RICHARD BROOKE, Bart., of Norton Priory, the following is given amongst the "squibs":—

"SIR W-K-N'S ORATION FROM THE WHITE LION."

"Shentlemen,—I was very much please to come here to-day for to pole for the House of Eaton. My family, she was always attach to Lord Grosvenor's; my father's father's great-grandfather, did love the Eaton family a great deal.—Lord Grosvenor she is partly a Welse-men, and I hope you all Welse men was support Lord Grosvenor. If I did see any Ancient Britons here now, I was sure they will support Lord Grosvenor. But it is dark, shentlemen, and so shentlemen, I was wish you good night."

Another "squib" took the form of a play bill of the "New Theatre, Tre-boeth, near Chester," and amongst the performances there was announced "A Welsh Trio, by Sir W. W. W., Sir F. C. [Foster Cunliffe], and Sir S. G." [Stephen Glynnne]

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

A. B.

Queries.

EDDISBURY CAMP.

[539]

I know of very few places within a radius of a few miles from our ancient City possessing such interest as Delamere Forest. My object to-day, however, is to speak of its associations in the time of the wars between the Saxons and the Danes. Under Egbert the union of the Saxon heptarchy took place, but Cheshire was added to the Mercian monarchy, which became subject to Egbert.

Ethelred and his amazon countess, **ETHELPLEDA** (daughter of King Alfred), restored Caerlleon, now called Chester, A.D. 908 (so says Sir Peter Leycester in his *Antiquities*), after its destruction by the Danes, and enclosed it with new walls and made it nigh such two as it was before; so that the Castle, that was sometime by the water without the Walls, is now in the town within the Walls.

Ethelred deceased A.D. 912. His widow **ETHELPLEDA** in the year 915 built the town of Eadsbury (or **EDDISBURY**), in the Forest of Cheshire, whereof there nothing remains but that we now call the "Chamber of the Forest." Ethelfleda died at Tamworth the 12th June, A.D. 919, and was buried in St. Peter's Church at Gloucester.

EDDISBURY HILL lies between Kelsall and Delamere. **OLD PALE**, in this township, covers the supposed site of Ethelfleda's City of Eddisbury, and on the summit of the hill are still to be seen extensive earth works, surrounded by a deep ditch, embracing a considerable area of ground. On a recent visit to the spot a friend from the locality, who accompanied me, pointed out one or two mounds, supposed to be the resting place of warriors slain in battle. This hill is considered the highest in the county.

It would be interesting to learn if discoveries have at any time been made, such as old weapons, coins, or anything illustrative of the period when the old city existed?

Eccleston.

JNO. LEYFIELD.

[540] THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGES IN CHESTER.

Almost all the Histories of Chester, on the authority of several old chronicles, mention the existence of underground passages or galleries in Chester.

Has any modern evidence come to light to prove that there is any truth in the tradition? If there has, would the fortunate holder of it communicate it to *THE SHEAF*? If there is no evidence we must give up the attempt to fathom either the galleries or the tradition, but I should like to get at the bottom of them both.

J. H.

[541] DODS OF EDGE HALL.

[Nos. 401, 430, 530.—Dec. 4, 18, Feb. 19.]

I am interested in your notice of the Dods of Edge, whose property and name I now own. They were in possession of Edge before the Conquest (see Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*) though the pedigree, as you say, dated from the reign of Henry II. The last representative of the elder branch of the Dods of Edge died in 1827. The late Mr. Whitehall Dod of Llanerch represented the Dods of Cloverley, descended from a younger branch of the Dods of Edge. Edge Hall is singularly deficient in old family records, and my object in writing this is to ask if you can put me in the way of obtaining any information beyond what is contained in Ormerod. I am especially anxious to know whether the name of the Dods occurs in any record of local transactions about the time of the Rebellion. I am told that the style of the present house indicates a date of about the middle of the seventeenth century, and the age of the trees near the house agrees with that date. There is an old site of a moated house at the other end of the estate, more than a mile from the present house, near Malpas Station. On digging into it I found remains of burnt wood, making it a probable supposition that it was destroyed by fire during the Rebellion, but I can find no record or notice of the date or cause of the change of the residence. Any information bearing on this subject will be thankfully received.

Edge Hall.

C. WOLLEY DOD.

Replies.

[542] CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

[Nos. 182, 472.—July 31, January 15.]

In addition to those mentioned by GLADWYN the following may be quoted. There are some who have lived in the neighbouring and bordering counties, and whom I have included in my list :—

1775. Elizabeth Swindley was buried in Trinity Churchyard, Chester, on the 29th of October, having reached the age of 103 years the previous Midsummer.

1775. John Hancock died at Ledsham (Cheshire), at the age of 112, the 30th of November.

1775. Elizabeth Sparkes, of St. Michael's, Chester, died November 23, aged 104.

1779. Mary Hall, of Willington, near Tarporley, died in March, having attained the age of 104. She left a son aged 84, and a daughter 72.

1792. Mr. Hammond died at Severn Hall, Shropshire, aged 107.

1789. Esther Barrow died in June, at Ness, near Neston (Cheshire), aged 105.

1790. Rev. Mr. Davies, a clergyman at Hereford, died there in the 105th year of his age.

1790. Isaac Hyde died in December, at Ashley (Lancashire), at 102 years and 5 months.

1780. John Kickleby died in Chester, at the age of 106.

1784. Elizabeth Jordan was buried on the 7th of January, at Trinity Church, Chester, aged 105.

1797. Catherine Richardson died May 31st, at Malpas (Cheshire), at the advanced age of 109.

1797 Elizabeth Rogers died at Llanrhydywya (Carnarvonshire), aged 103, and was attended to her final abode by 7 children, 27 grand-children, 47 great grand-children, and 3 great great-grand-children.

1797. Matthew Wright, a yeoman, died at Buglawton, near Congleton (Cheshire), on the 3rd of January, in his 100th year.

1797. Mrs. Raine died on June 10th, in Chester, aged 104.

1793. Mr. Congreve died at Derby, at the great age of 107 years; formerly a schoolmaster in that town.

1790. Frances Barton died at Horsley (Derbyshire), at the same age.

1814. Mrs. Catherine Foulkes, of Pant Evan, Tremereichion Parish (Flintshire), died in August, having just completed her 100th year.

1815. Mrs. Anne Barlow, a widow, died in July, at Little Budworth (Cheshire), at the age of 100.

(To be continued.)

Ledsham.

B. M.

[543] MARSELY PARK, WREXHAM.

[No. 285.—Oct. 2.]

Your correspondent C. RIGBY will find that *Marselly Park* is situate somewhere in the triangle between Wrexham, Holt, and Gresford. It was in the 17th century the property of the HUMBERSTON family, of Gwersyllt, ancestors of the present worthy High Sheriff of Cheshire. I believe the estate passed through several hands after leaving the Humberstons, and that it is now owned by the Griffith family, surgeons, late of Wrexham. In later days the property had gone by the name of *The Parks*. The older title, MARSELY, seems almost to suggest that the land belonged originally to some church or religious house, dedicated to St. Marcella. Can that church have been *Marchwiell*?

G. T.

[544] . OLD HOOTON HALL TOWER.

[No. 322.—Oct. 23.]

I copy the short notice of this old tower which HANSHALL gives in his *History of Cheshire*, p. 618 :—

"One side (of the quadrangular building) was occupied by a strong stone tower, embattled and

machicolated, from which rose a slender turret of extraordinary height. It was erected by Sir William Stanley, who had for that purpose a licence, enrolled in the Exchequer of Chester, dated Augst. 10, 4 and 5 Hen. VII (1487)."

Although this barely answers the query of LUCY D. T., yet, as no one more able than myself has replied to it, I trust the above extract may form a basis for our fair correspondent to glean further information from other sources.

J. H.

[545] A CHESTER NEWSPAPER 123 YEARS AGO.

[No. 490.—Jan. 22.]

Your correspondent G. T. has strung together an interesting medley of curious facts from his copy of the *Chester Weekly Courant* of 1757. I desire merely to supplement his remarks by saying that "the Large House at the Barrs,"—the one now subdivided into three—was built, about 1690, by Sir Philip Egerton, Knight, of Oulton, M.P. for Liverpool in 1669, and for Cheshire in 1679 and 1684. Sir Philip took to wife Catherine, daughter and heiress of Piers Conway, of Hendre, esq., by Mary his wife; and he left to his said Lady, "my house w'ch I lately new built in ye City of Chester, and situate and being near the Barrs there, and all my Messuages or tenem'ts and hereditaments in ye s'd City of Chester, for and during ye terme of her natural life." Lady Egerton died in 1707. At her ladyship's death, this house fell to her elder son, John Egerton, of Oulton, esq.; from whom it passed at his decease in 1731 to Philip Egerton, esq., of Oulton, who was in possession of the estates in 1757, when the Barrs House was offered "to let" in the *Weekly Courant*. The family's estate and interest in the old mansion has long since ceased.

H. S. A.

[546] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.

[Nos. 481, 509, 531.—Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 19.]

In addition to the two old Chester characters mentioned by E. A. B., I have portrait sketches of the following in my collection:—

JOHN BOULTON, Bellman.

JACKY CRAWFORD, "a porter in the Market formerly a well-known dog fancier; especially of the breed which is trained to bull-fighting."

SAMUEL BURROWS [Query, who was he?]

THOMAS WALKER, the Blind Bookseller. "Thos. Walker was born in Chester the 9th of Sept. 1737, and followed the occupation of a Tailor till 1759. He then enter'd into Earl Grosvenor's Company when the Cheshire Militia were first raised, and acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his officers; but unfortunately in 1783, in his own defence he lost the sight of one eye, which in six weeks deprived him of the other: since that time he has had recourse to Selling Ballads, Tales,

&c. And is the person who disposes of this his Portrait, from whom you hear—No grumbling."

CAPT. ROBERT THOMAS, "A most singular character of Chester."

JOHN ROBERTS, commonly called "Mayor of Hand-bridge," alias "Jacky Spanker."

JOHN HUXLEY. (See CHESHIRE SHEAF, Nos. 437, 506.)

ANN THORNTON, alias SNUFFY NAN. A coloured sketch by "Henry Burt, Chester—March 31, 1834. Price One Shilling."

EDWARD JONES alias TEDDY BOCK, a orier of "last dying speeches," &c. "When there is a scarcity of subjects sufficiently powerful to rouse the attention of old women and children,—such as the exit at the gallows of an unfortunate wight, or some shocking accident or calamity, Teddy will not scruple to cut up old newspapers and apportion them amongst the curious, "for the small charge of one half-penny" as some very wonderful or very dreadful narrative; particularly when hunger and thirst, those powerful stimulants to devising 'ways and means,' excite sensations not easily allayed; the latter especially in Teddy, from his being constitutionally affected with a dryness of temperament, which requires frequent moisture. As will be seen, he has lost a leg, by his own account "in glorious honorable war"; though there are ill-natured people, who, no doubt without foundation, do not scruple to hint, that it was occasioned by a nightly visit to the preserve of some neighbouring 'quire."

JOHN DICKINSON—Twenty four years letter carrier at Chester—died of cholera in 1833.

TEDDY HALL—A Drunken Vagabond, I fear.

Perhaps some old inhabitants may recollect some of these Chester characters, and could give some short personal reminiscences of them in THE SHEAF.

Gatley Road, Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

MARCH 5, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MARCH 5.—	Sheriff Montford won the Standard on the Roodeye, being Shrove Tuesday	1578
" 6.—	Dee Mills burnt down the second time, £40,000 damage.....	1819
" 7.—	Robert Hodgson installed 23rd Dean of Chester.....	1816
" 10.—	William Brereton, of Hondford, created Baronet	1626
" 11.—	Chester Infirmary finished and patients first admitted	1759

Original Documents.

[547] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS,

1665-6.—No. III.

We resume the publication of these important historic papers at the point when orders had arrived from the Privy Council to arrest certain gentlemen and others of the County of Chester, suspected of treasonable designs, and especially of being in correspondence with a cabal of Roundheads in London.

"Coll: Croxton
 Capteine Cowten
 Gilbert Gerard of Crewd
 Ben: Croxton of Middlewich
 Rob: Pike of Frodshum
 William Barrett of Ringwy, left to S'r John Ardern to take security
 Hugh Crosby of Winnington, security
 Hugh Gandy of Whitley, security
 Thomas Butter of Moore, security
 John Hough of Winnington, good security

To Captain Thomas Needham, these:

You are hereby required to secure and take into your Custody the persons whose names are above written, And them safely to keepe in Custody untill such tyme as you shall receive farther order from us. Given under our hands & seales the nine and twentieth of August, 1665.

© R. BROOKE
 © P. LEICESTER
 © PR. BROOKE
 © THO. MAREBURY
 © HENRY LEGH."

"To S'r Philip Egerton, Knt.,
 Capitaine of a troope of horse.

You are hereby required to take and secure the sev'all p'sons under-written into your Custody, and to require good Security from evrie of them for the use of our Sou'raigne Lord the King, that they shall not aot nor plott against his Ma'tie, but live peaceably; and if any of them shall refuse soe to doe that then you Convey, or cause safely to bee, him or any of them so refusing to the Govern'r of the Castle of Chester or his depaty, who is to keepe them in safe Custody untill further Orders.

Given under our hands and seales at Northwich the 4th of September, Anno Dom. 1665.

Capt. Thomas White: S:	William Car'r: S:
George Gleaves Tho:	Hugh Crosby: S:
Hancocks: S:	Hugh Gandy, found at
William Maykin: S:	Lancaster
George Wright: S:	Thomas Butter: S:
James Croxton: S:	John Hough: S:
Robert Smith: S:	Robert Yorke: S:

© THOS. CHOLMONDELEY
 P. LEICESTER ©
 © HENRY LEGH."

"These For S'r Philip Egerton,
 at Northwiche:

S'r Geoffery & I have considered of the Condition of Col: Croxton, & believe his remoovall can not bee without hassard of his life; & therefore desire your concurrence & your hand to this order w'ch wee have signed; & for your not observation off the order from the other Dep: Lieutenants wee will excuse you. in hast wee are

Your Kinsmen and Servants,

GEFFERY SHAKERLEY
 THO. CHOLMONDELEY.

Vale royall,

Sept. ye 6.

We have ordered Captain Minshull to send his Ensigne & men tomorrow by ten of the Clock to Ravenscroft."

"St. Giles, Winburne, 7ber 16, 1665.

My Lord,

In the examina'on of p'sons ingaged in a Rising lately intended at London, it was found they had Correspondenoye in Cheshire w'th Coll. Croxton & Coll. Duckenfield, They have not p'ticularized to mee theire dwellings or any other Circumstances by w'ch to find them out, But if yo'r Lo'ppe can heare of any such men known to bee disaffected to his M'tie or vehemently suspected to bee soe, It is his Ma'ties pleasure that they bee imprisoned & strictly examined, upon their Correspondence at London w'th relacon to the late Plott. Whereof yo'r Lo'ppe will be pleased to certifie me. I am

My Lord,

Yo'r Lo'ppe Humble Serv't

ARLINGTON.

The day of meeting is here at
 Chest'r at Mr. Burroughes'
 his House, 5th Oct'r, about 2
 of the Clocke.

For the Earle of Derby."

"My Lord of Derby having form'ly desired you for ye better securing of ye Peace of ye Kingdom ag't ye designes then on foote to cause to be secured such p'sons as you should judge might be dangerous. Although I cannot be confident if the Ennemyes to his Ma'ts Govern't have wholly laid aside the thoughts of carrying on the designes w'ch they had in hand, yet hoping y't ye care w'ch hath been taken as well in London as in other places through the Kingdom may in some measure have discouraged them from attempting anything suddenly ag't his Ma'ts Governm't, and not desiring y't ye inconveniencies to w'ch a confinement may subject the p'ticular p'sons should be longer continued then ye necessities of his Ma'ts service require; I have thought fitt to desire you to take into strict consideration the p'sons now under confinement within your Lieutenancy, and such of them as you shall judge least dangerous I desire you to cause to be sett at liberty, upon fitting security of their peaceable & quiet demeanour. The most dangerous amongst w'ch the

preachers in Conventicles may justly be reckoned, as also such officers of the Armyes und'r the Usurpers powers whose principles you have reason to believe to be contrary to his Ma'ts Govern'm't, I desire you still to continue under custody. But in consideration of ye Officers of the late Armyes, I desire you to be very careful y't such as may reasonably be pr'nonced to be willing to live peaceably und'r his Ma'ts Govern't may not be unnecessarily deteyned or molested, but only those of the most turbulent and dangerous tempers.

I am,
yo'r affectionate friend.

JAMES.

Yorke, Sep. ye 27th,
1665."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[548] THE TRENT AND MERSEY CANAL.

The means by which this great work was originated contrasted strangely with the ways of modern speculators.

JOSIAH WEDGWOOD, the celebrated potter, appears to have taken a leading part in promoting it. When determined upon, MIDDLEWICH was desirous that it should come through that town; but this was not at first intended, as appears from the following original letter of Mr. Wedgwood to Mr. Seaman:—

"Sir,—

"I am favoured with your letter by the Bearer and should be glad to wait upon you at Spittle Hill or Middlewich, but cannot leave home for a day, having letters to despatch one way or other almost every hour.

"We are very sensible of the advantages the intended navigation would receive from a near approach to MIDDLEWICH; and you may be assured the Undertakers would be glad to bring it as near to that, or any other place which stands in need of such a convenience, as is consistent with *Public Utility*.

"Mr. BRINDLEY and Mr. HENSHALL have both viewed the Dane Valley, from Congleton to near Northwich, in order to ascertain the best place to cross over at, and they both give their opinion in favour of Radner. But you will nevertheless be doing the Public an essential service, & lay a particular obligation on the persons concerned in this design, by pointing out any errors in their present plan, or any improvements that may yet be made in it.

"I shall be very glad to see or hear from you as best suits your convenience, & am very respectfully
Sir, your obed. h'ble. serv't.,

JOSIAH WEDGWOOD.

Burslem, Jany. 8th, 1766.

For Mr. Willm. SEAMAN,
Middlewich."

There was then some enterprise in the old town. The leading inhabitants and neighbouring gentry entered warmly into the scheme, and were ultimately rewarded by the MIDDLEWICH route being adopted.

Towards meeting the Parliamentary and other expenses, which were then (as now) considerable, a subscription was entered into. The following is from the original list:—

"Feb. 3, 1766.

"Whereas application is made to Parliament for an Act to make a navigable Canal from or near Wilden Ferry in the county of Derby, to the River Mersey, in the county of Chester or Lancaster, or one of them,

"We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do severally promise and agree to pay upon demand to WILLIAM SEAMAN, gent., the several sums of money by us set down to our respective names, to be applied for or towards the expenses of obtaining or endeavouring to obtain such Act, and all previous and other expenses relating thereto, in case the plan be for carrying the said Canal through or near the Town of MIDDLEWICH, in the County of Cheshire. Which several sums by us subscribed, or so much thereof as shall be by us paid and applied for that purpose, are intended and agreed to be repaid to us respectively by and out of the provision which shall be made by such Act," &c., &c.

	Guineas.		Guineas.
Vernon	20.	Wm. Seaman	5.
Thomas Vawdrey	5.	Ditto, more	5.
Thos. Naylor	4.	Robt. Bridge	5.
Wm. Chesworth	1.	John Parrott	5.
Jno. Lowe	5.	John Seaman	5.
Jas. Jackson	1.	Thos. Naylor for Geo.	
Wm. Beckett	1.	Walker	5.
Chas. Cooke	5.	W. Simson for Mr. John	
Samuel Beckett	1.	Bayley	5.
Richd. Oulton	1.	Wm. Seaman, for	2.
J. Hand	5.	John Gill	1.

In addition to the above, there appear to have been other subscriptions, making a total of £101 17s.

During the progress of the Parliamentary proceedings JOHN WEDGWOOD (son of JOSIAH) wrote to Mr. Seaman:—

"Sir,—

"I was duly favoured with your former letter, and entered the subscription as desired, and have now your favour of the 3rd before me, acquainting us of the success you have met with in promoting a subscription at MIDDLEWICH.

"I hope the gentlemen will run little or no risk in having the money returned to them again, as we are almost got through our Committee upon the bill, and have the fairest prospect of success; but the expenses of the House and other things run very high, and it will be necessary to have these subscriptions advanced. I have received one half of the Liverpool subscriptions, and shall write imme-

diately for the other, as we are obliged to pay the expenses of the House as we go on.

I am, with compliments to your good family, &c.
Your most obed't serv't

J. WEDGWOOD.

"Mr. Wm. Seaman,
nr. Middlewich.

In August following, an Act having been obtained, the above subscriptions were all returned.

The estimated cost of the undertaking was £180,000, which the Act gave power to raise, and also a further £20,000 if needful; but "by reason of the great increase in the value of land and wages of artists and labourers" power was obtained by a subsequent Act to raise a further £70,000.

The list of original proprietors numbers 120.

The following account of the expenses of the undertaking was issued in MS. to the Subscribers:—

"1775.

March 4. To cash paid on account of	£	s.	d.
Canal to 4 March, 1775...	202	185	10 6
To sundries in stock and			
owing	10,042	8	1
Cash (in hands of officers)	2,743	17	8½
	£214,971	16	3½

"1775.

March 4. By Cash by Subscriptions	129,400	0	0
By ditto (on credit of Tolls)	68,550	0	0
By profit and loss for nett			
profit to 3rd Sept. 1774			
By ditto to 4th March, 1775	17,021	16	3½
	£214,971	16	3½

As is well known, the CANAL proved one of the most remunerative works in the kingdom, and its prosperity continued until in great part eclipsed by the London and North Western Railway.

B. Ll. V.

Queries.

[549] THE BEAST MARKET, CHESTER.

In almost every English town of any size, in mediæval days, there was a locality specially set apart for the public sale of Cattle, and this generally, independent of the places allotted to the statutable periodical Fairs. The Beast Market at WREXHAM occurs to me as a case in point. I should think CHESTER would not be singular in this respect; but I desire to know, if the fact remains on record, whereabouts in this city such a Market was situated, say, prior to a century ago?

L. L.

[550] CODDINGTON HALL, CHESHIRE.

I made a pilgrimage on foot some 10 or 12 years ago from Chester, where I was then residing, to the little township and village of CODDINGTON, mainly to see the

Hall so long the residence of the ancient family of MASSIE; but was disappointed to learn from an aged cottager that the mansion,—of timber, I think he said,—was pulled down in the days of his youth. He pointed out to me two stone gate-posts, as all that was then left to be seen of CODDINGTON HALL. What were the circumstances attending the demolition of that somewhat historic house? Historic, I call it, for I suppose that General Massey, the Civil War celebrity, must have spent at least his boyhood there.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[551]

MURENGERS.

In looking over Hemingway the other day I noticed that Chester had a Mayor and two Sheriffs until half a century ago. In the same book I observed the word "Murenger," which is defined in the Imperial Dictionary as follows:—"Two officers of great antiquity in the City of Chester, annually chosen from the aldermen, to see the walls kept in repair, and to receive a certain toll for the purpose."

Hemingway writes:—

"The duties of the Murengers were formerly of considerable extent and importance, and consisted in collecting the customs on imports, which were appropriated to the repairs of the City Walls. The appointment of these officers is continued annually, but this source of revenue is almost entirely dried up. So long as the direct importation of Irish linens to this port was continued, an adequate sum was raised for this purpose, but that trade has long since been diverted into other channels, and with its disappearance the revenue has failed."

I wonder whether these officers are represented by any others of modern institution?

The Temple.

B. WILBRAHAM JONES.

Replies.

[552]

RUSHBEARING.

[Nos. 246, 278, 332.—Sep. 4, 25, Nov. 20.]

This ancient custom is mentioned in Lysons' "Magna Britannia," *Cheshire*, p. 463; but it is not necessary to quote the reference to it here, except that it "was attended by a procession of young men and women, dressed in ribbands, and carrying garlands &c., which were hung up in the church: we saw these garlands remaining in several churches."

In his *History of Cheshire*, HANSHALL, p. 581, gives us the following extracts from the Parish Accounts of Congleton:—

1595.	Gave for wine to the Rushbearers	0.	3.	5
1599.	Gave for wine to those who brought			
	Rushes from Buglawton to our chapel	0.	3.	0
1607.	To the Rush-bearers, wine, ale & cakes	0.	6.	0

I do not think the use of rushes to cover the floors of churches can have anything to do with the use of them to decorate the churches as mentioned by the LYSONS, or yet the present practice of hilling therewith the graves of departed friends. As a covering for church floors, rushes would have to be brought several times each year, whilst Rushbearing occurs once a year only. As will be seen by reading the ear of THE SHEAF, No. 159, rushes were used in St. Oswald's Church, Chester, the which, having got noisome and filthy, were ordered to be removed in 1633.

J. H.

[553] JOHN DOD, THE DECALOGIST.

[Nos. 401, 430, 530.—Dec. 4, 18, Feb. 19.]

I am much obliged for Mr. Herford's communication. I will accept as evidence the book printed in 1708, and make a note in my *Addenda*. As it appears by the text, p. 688 (*Ormerod*), that there is some doubt on the point in question, a "qy" (either omitted by me or displaced in press), should be prefixed to the misleading word *not* on p. 612, to make it consistent with the suggestion at 688.

Barnet, Herts.

T. HELSBY.

[554] VOYAGE BETWEEN PARKGATE AND DUBLIN.

[No. 409.—Dec. 11.]

If worth the Editor's acceptance I shall be happy to supply him with a few cuttings on the difficulties and dangers of the above voyage, the usual one during the last century for passengers from England to Ireland. The following is one:—

"Hibernian Journal," Vol VI., No. 60, Jan. 12th, 1776. Dublin.

"By a letter from Mr. James Folliot, of Chester, we learn that the *Murray*, Capt. Totty, sailed from Parkgate the 3rd inst., with the *Dorset*, yacht; but that on the 4th, being within a few leagues of Dublin Harbour, a strong gale of wind from the S.W. sprung up, which obliged the *Murray* to put back, and next day arrived at Parkgate, where she now remains."

Dublin.

W. M. GIBBON, LL.D.

[555] ANCIENT SUN-DIALS OF CHESHIRE.

[No. 451.—Jan. 1.]

"At the western end of NANTWICH CHURCH was formerly," according to Plott (*History of Sandwich*, p. 64), a Sundial with the following inscription:—

'*Honor DoMIno pro paCs popVLō s'Vo parta.*'

This line is a veritable chronogram, and recorded the date of the erection of the dial.

In forming a chronogram, the deviser was permitted to use any of the letters that stood for Roman numerals, irrespectively as to their proper sequence. In the NANTWICH example they followed each other thus:—

D M I C V L V.

Here the intended date is not clearly shown until the letters are re-arranged as follows:—

M D C L V V I.

As the letter X (to represent 10) was contained in comparatively few words, a combination of V's was permitted, hence the date is meant for the year 1661.

Any record of the SUN-DIALS of Cheshire would be incomplete without a notice of this remarkable and, as far as I know, unique example; and all good antiquaries must regret its being numbered among the things of the past.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[556]

AITCHES.

[No. 501.—Feb. 6.]

In reply to your correspondent W. T. K., aitches certainly do not mean or imply "itches." It is common in several parts of Cheshire, not only with the labouring class, but also with the farmers and their families, to speak of the pains or aches of the body all "aitches." I remember being greatly perplexed when first visiting Cheshire cottagers to have the answer to my question, "Well, how are you to-day?" "Oh, sir, I am full of *aitches*," meaning thereby aches or pains. This way of speaking undoubtedly sounds strange to our ears. But the Cheshire cottagers, after all, may not be far wrong. If I mistake not, SPENSER in his *Faerie Queen*—I have not got a copy by me—uses the word aches, thus spelling it, as two syllables, and to make the rhythm gives the word the sound of "aitches." Besides the above named, there are other "aitches" well known by medical men, such as fainting, hot and cold aitches, so-called. These have not the nature of aches and pains spoken of in the first instance. They would be classed under the head of shiverings or sweatings, and even in the city of Chester it is not an unusual occurrence to hear, "I have such a hot aitch," or "cold aitch," as the case may be.

SAML. HAGUE.

Kingsley Vicarage.

I do not think any of the interpretations suggested by your correspondent W. M. B. quite express the meaning attached in this county to the word "Aitch," or "Esche." It is more like a fit or an attack of any kind. We often hear of a "hot" or "cold aitch," "shivering" or "fainty aitches," &c.; generally some sudden or passing ailment.

Will the following quotation from Caleb Balderstone's speech in Sir W. Scott's "Bride of Lammermoor," chapter eleven, help W. T. K. to trace the origin of the expression:—

"Ye may gang down yourrell and look into our kitchen, the cookmaid in the trembling 'eries,' the good vivers lying a' about," &c?

H.K.

MARCH 12, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MARCH 12.—Edward the Black Prince created 5th Earl of Chester	1336
„ 13.—Richard Birkenhead appointed Recorder of Chester.....	1575
„ 14.—Randle Wall buried at Frodham, aged 103	1592
„ 15.—John Bridgeman elected 10th Bishop of Chester	1619
„ 16.—Chester illuminated to commemorate the King's recovery.....	1789
„ 17.—Beeston Castle relieved by Princes Rupert and Maurice.....	1645
„ 18.—Chester Infirmary formally opened... J. H.	1761

Original Documents.

[557] THE BUTTER SHOPS, CHESTER.

[No. 522.—Feb. 19.]

Continuing the story abruptly broken off as above, I reach the point when the Aldermen and others appointed to survey the tumble-down structure, had completed their view, and, subject to the Corporation's approval, had paid the purchase money to the vendor.

The following Receipt, which I found amongst some loose papers in the Muniment Room at the Town Hall, fails to give the exact day of the transfer, but it was probably on or about the 1st of May, 1593:—

“Apud Cunitatem Cestr', Anno

R'E'ne Elizab', &c., xxxv.'to.

“Received by me Will'm Leeche, of the Maior and Citizens of the Citie of Chester by the hands of Mr. Will'm Aldersey and Mr. fulk Aldersey, alderme', Th'rrers of the said Citie, Twenty pounds of lefall money of england, and is in full paym't for & of the Purohes of the shops and londs called the butter shops, w'oh I haue sold vnto the said Maior and Citise's. Dated the daie and yere first above wrytten xx: li.

by me WYLL'M LEECHE. ©

Sealed and delin'ed
in p'no's of these,
ad vs's p'd' Maior'et Ciuin',
William Knight
Thomas Dawbie

Endorsed, “Will'm Leeche's Aquittance to the Thresurers of money paid for ye purchase of ye Buttershops by ye Citty. 85 Q. E.”

At the Assembly next day, May 2, the purchase is finally taken over in due form by the City, in the terms of the following Order:—

“BUTTERSHOPS TO BE BUILT.

“At w'oh assemblie question was made touchinge the Shoppes nere the milke stowpes Called the Butter shoppes, for p'ches whereof the Citie haue coucluded w'ith Wil'm Leeche, whose p'chesed the same of Will'm Mordant, esquier, and Agnes his wief, whether likeste for the Citie to buld it, or ells to Lett Mr. Thom's Lynnyall, alderman, take to hit and bulde it in sorte as he offreth. Wherevpon it is now at this Assembly conoluded and Agreed vpon by the said Maior, the aldermen, sheriffs and Oom'en Councell of the same Citie, that the Maior and Citizens of this Citie shall haue the same to them and their successors for ever. And then agreed also that Mr. Edmunde Gammulle, and Mr. Thom's Lynnyall, Aldermen and Justices of Peace, Mr. Will'm Aldersey and Mr. fulk Aldersey, aldermen and Thre'rers of the said Citie shall cause and see vnto that all the said buldings shalbe taken downe, and plase in safety the timber and other necessaryes thereof, and cause all the same to be re-edified and bulded for the most comoditie an' benefit of this incorporac'on, At their oversight, direction, & appoynt'm't, and in suche bewtifull sorte as they shall thinke likeste.”

This is the last entry, at all events for many years, in the Books of Assembly. But in my own old MS. Chronicle, from which quotations have been already frequently made in THE SHEAF, the following record appears, under the mayoral year 1592-3:—

“In this yere the new buildinges neere the Milk Stoo pes, in the Eastgate Streete, were newe bulded at the Cittyes charge, all but one fore front, w'oh Mr. Humphrey Houghton, of Manchester, built being his owne land.”

It is probably not generally known that “Pepper Alley Row,” or the “Dark Row,” as it is sometimes appropriately termed in our local annals, was in the 16th and 17th centuries more commonly described as the “BUTTER SHOPS ROW,” in honor of the ancient structure forming the subject of this article.

T. HUGHES.

[558] BIRD FAMILY OF CHESTER AND LONDON.

In the *Visitation of Middlesex* (taken 1663-4, by Wm. Byley, Esq., Lancaster Herald, and Henry Dethick, Rouge Croix Pursuivant; Marshals and Deputies to Sir Edward Bysshe, Knight, Clarenceux King of Arms), the following pedigree appears:—

“Bird of London.

Arms: A cross flory between four martlets, on a canton a orsecent; quartering 3 other coats. Crest: A bird rising, gules.

I. *Thomas Bird*, of the city of Chester, Alderman and Justice of the Peace for that city, married *Ellen*, daughter of — *Sharpe*, of Neston, co. Chester, Gent., and had a son:—

II. *Richard Bird* of the city of Chester, Alderman and Mayor, married *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Peter Drinkwater*, of Chester, Alderman and Justice

of the Peace, and had with two younger sons, Thomas and Richard, a son:—

III. *William Bird*, of the city of London, merchant, and of Hackney, co. Middlesex, who married *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Edward Bushell*, of London, merchant, by whom he had issue—

1. *Grace Bird*, aged 1 year in 1664.

2. *William Bird*, 'eldest son,' aged 3 years in 1664.

The pedigree is signed 'WILLIAM BIRD.'

I daresay the above will interest some of the readers of *THE SHEAF*, and probably elicit other particulars of the family.

Thelwall.

J. PAUL RYLANDS.

Notes.

[559] DODS OF EDGE.

ETON SCHOOL A HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS AGO.

The following letter may interest those who know Eton now. It is copied literally from the original in my possession, which was written on the occasion of taking to Eton Thomas Crews Dod (who died in 1827), the last representative in the direct male line of the Dods of Edge, by his relation, Mr. Leche, of Carden:—

"Temple, 18th Feb. 1769.

Dear Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. Fairclough and myself have left your son safe and well at Mrs. Manley's in Eaton near Windsor. Mr. Norbury recommended her, and I like her well: she seems a very good temper'd woman, and having been in the way of taking boarders but a short time has not many boys yet. She is to have £25 per ann. Board. £3 more for fire and candles, 1 Gns. more for a study (which I think he should have) to write and read and keep his own Goods and Chattels in. For washing half a Gns. extra, and to put out all washing waistcoats and thread stockings. If he's to lye without a Bedfellow there is 5 Gns. extra for that, and if he has a Bedroom to himself 10 Gns.: all Holidays that he resides at the Boarding School he must pay half a Gns. a week more for, and must pay for his own Tea and Sugar which will lye him in about a Gns. every Quarter. He must also pay 4 Gns. a year to the Master he is under (which for some time will be the under Master) and 8 Gns. a year to his tutor Mr. Norbury; the fees on his entrance were 9 Gns. His holidays are 5 weeks at August, a month at Christmas, and a fortnight at Easter. Now I think I have told you all, except the best of all, which is, that your son behaved both in town and at Eaton extremely well, and that he is much liked by all who converse with him, and especially by your humble servant; you will hear from him by Monday's or Tuesday's post. I pray write to him as soon as you can. You will then signify whether you will have him to lye with a

bedfellow, or in a single room, or not, and if you were to write to Mrs. Manley I think you would be right; you may let her know what weekly allowance to make for pocket money, which I understand is generally 1s. per week; he's pretty strong in cash now. G. Fairclough joins me in best wishes to Mr. Dod and the young Lady's as well as yourself.—I am,

Dear Madam,

Your most affectionate

Kinsman and Servant,

JOHN LECHER."

C. WOLLEY DOD.

Edge Hall.

[560] THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY IN 1798.

The following, if not suggestive for the present day, may serve as a Record (in *THE SHEAF*) of the past, to shew how that patriotist formerly (as it should be now) was not parsimony:—

"Bank of England, 8 Mar. 1798.

Sir,

I have this morning received your favour of the 6th inst., inclosing a Bill value £50 as a Voluntary Contribution for which, when paid, a Certificate will be prepared which may be had on application at the Bank by any Friend you may choose to appoint to call for it.

I am Sir,

Your most obedt. humble
Servt.,

Mr. William Seaman,
Middlewich,
Cheshire."

A. NEWLAND.

"Voluntary Contributions for the Defence of the Country."

A.

No. 1268.

"This is to certify that Mr. Wm. Seaman, of Middlewich, has this day paid into the Bank of England the sum of fifty pounds, which is placed to the credit of the Commissioners of the Treasury on account of the Supplies granted by Parliament for the year 1798, pursuant to an Act of Parliament of the 38th year of His present Majesty's Reign, chapter 16. Witness my hand this 12 Day of March, 1798.

£50.

W. DUNN."

(In the margin.—Britannia holding a spear in one hand, and extending in the other an olive branch.) William Seaman died in 1803, in his 97th year.

Abraham Newland (whose autograph is to the above letter) and a Bank of England note were synonymous in his day.

B. LL V.

Queries.

[561] ADAMS FAMILY.

[No. 100.—June 19, 1878.]

Can any of your readers state if the "Dolly Adams," mentioned in No. 100, was connected with John Adams

who, I believe, was the first proprietor and publisher of the *Chester Courant*. He died in the month of Sept., 1757, and was buried in St. John's Churchyard, leaving a daughter, named Dorothy, him surviving.

Dublin.

W. M. G., LL.D.

[562] THE ROMAN EAST-GATE, CHESTER.

Hemingway, in his *History of Chester*, pp. 339-342, quoting from Mr. Pennant, says, "that on removing the more modern 'Norman' masonry of the (old) Eastgate, the 'Roman gateway' appeared in full view. It consisted of *two Arches*," &c. These arches were double and exactly the same size, and the pillar between them divided the street (Eastgate and Forest Streets) exactly in two. This is the account Mr. Pennant gives according to information received from a Mr. Wilkinson. He says this double arch was not uncommon; and that the *Porta equilina*, and the *Porte portosa*, at Rome, were of this kind, and that at Athens stood a double gate (Dipylon).

Then a Mr. Ogden says, the gate consisted of four arches, two in one line; and that the distance from each was fifteen feet. The height of the gate sixteen feet, and the breadth nine and thirty feet, &c. &c.

No doubt Mr. Ogden meant by four arches, the ruinous appearance that was presented by the ingress and egress archways still standing, while the connecting masonry had fallen to ruin. I mean the roof above the two passage-ways of the arches.

Pennant concludes by saying there is nothing very reliable known as to the construction of the old "Roman gateway."

If these double archways were equal in size,—as I have seen them represented,—I cannot but think it was very unusual; if however, they had been as about seven to fifteen, i.e., one archway used for heavy traffic, as was, and is, the "Newport Gate," Lincoln,—and the smaller one for foot passengers only, it would be more in character with the other old "gateways" of this country.

I believe Dr. Stukeley, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, vol. 2, gives a sketch of this old Roman gateway. If so, can you kindly clear up this point, of which Mr. Pennant was not satisfied?

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[563]

EDWARD ORME,

DEPUTY CHESTER HERALD.

I have in my possession a portrait of EDWARD ORME, who was, according to the inscription on the back of the painting,

"Organist of Chester Cathedral & Dep'y Herald of Arms for Chester &c.

"He died March 15th, 1777, aged 61 years, and was buried in the North Isle of Chester Cathedral, where a Monument was erected to his memory, which was removed in the year 1836 (to give room for placing

up a monument to Col. B. Barnston), to the North side wall of the side Isle, where it now remains.—Mr. Orme was Sheriff of Chester in the year 1773. The portrait was painted by his friend Delacour, and considered an excellent likeness.—S. Brown received this painting from Mrs. Edwd. Bailey, who resided with Mr. Orme. 1840."

Can any of your readers afford further information with regard to the authenticity of the portrait?

G. F. CLOUGH.

[564]

ANSTIL.

The discussion raised by my note about *Atches* has been interesting, if not decisive.

With your permission, I will give your readers another puzzle:—What is the derivatory of the word "*Anstil*?" It is used in Cheshire and Northumberland for the *first* of anything: e.g., the first ticket sold for a Concert.

W. T. K.

Nantwich.

[565]

THE MILK STOWPS, CHESTER.

I notice several references to the above incorporated with recent articles in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF on the subject of the BUTTERSHOPS, formerly in Eastgate-street. What is the meaning, in those quotations, of the term *Stoup*? I cannot find the word, as there apparently understood, in any of the two or three Dictionaries in my small library.

L. L.

Replies.

[566]

THE HUNDRED OF CALDY.

[No. 91.—June 12.]

I have made an attempt to expound this "riddle" for LUCY D. T., and although not an exact Reply I trust it will be of some use.

The Hundred of Little Caldý seems to have been the present Hundred of Wirral, in which the querist resides.

The most ancient name of this Hundred was Wilaveston, and HANSHALL says "It may be inferred from ancient records that Wirral lost its name Wilaveston soon after the Conquest, and acquired that of Caldý." When the name was changed to Wirral I cannot find out. The profits of this Hundred were given by Edward I., as Earl of Chester, to Randal de Sutton. The old name was Calders.

I presume LUCY D. T. is aware that the name is now borne by two small villages—one Little Caldý, about 9½ miles N.W.N. of Neston; the other Great Caldý, formerly called Grange, about seven miles N.W.N. of Neston.

J. H.

[567] **THE MAYOR'S BAMBOO.**
[No. 165.—July 24.]

So far as my researches amongst the city archives have proceeded, I have met with no record showing under what circumstances this relic came into the possession of the Corporation. Both the Mayors' Court Books, and the Treasurers' Accounts for that period are missing from the Muniments at the Town Hall; and the Orders of Assembly are silent upon the point. But that the staff has been used by successive Mayors' Porters in all the great civic processions and ceremonials for nearly 160 years, can scarcely be doubted: there are stories afloat, too, of its having been pretty vigorously plied on certain well-remembered occasions of riot or disturbance.

The BAMBOO, as it stands, is exactly 6ft. 1in. high, and of a convenient girth to be grasped in the full hand. It has a rather handsome silver head 5½ inches long—one great feature of this being that it was of local manufacture, before the Chester goldsmiths had got into the habit of sending for nearly everything to Birmingham or London. Upon the silver head are representations, in relief, of the city mace; the city arms proper (as confirmed by Flower in Elizabeth's reign); the city sword; and the spurious arms which so long in the last and present centuries usurped at Chester the place of the true. On the flat top is the city sword, round about which two reversed Cs are disposed in similar relief.

The head of the BAMBOO bears the following inscription:—"THO. EDWARDS, MAYOR, 1721," and has the official guarantee of the CHESTER GOLDSMITHS' HALL, viz.: "Bi," the maker's mark (B. Richardson); the lion passant; the leopard's head; the old city arms; and the date letter "V", being the Chester Hall Mark for 1721. The maker's stamp "Bi" is in duplicate, a most unusual course in that class of official work, and no doubt in this instance due to a mistake of the assayer. Midway on the staff are other silver belts,—one inscribed "William Johnson, Esq're, Mayor, 1867," and another, "Thomas Bowers, Esq.; Sheriff, 1867," both bearing the Chester Hall Mark, and the maker's initials "F.B." (the late Alderman Francois Butt), and the small Old English "h," the Chester Hall date letter for that year.

Alderman Littler informs me that he well remembers Harry Burgess, the Mayor's Porter of his boyhood, 60 years ago, marching in his brown official cloak before the Mayor, and brandishing this Bamboo staff in token of his authority, and to clear the way for His Worship's freer progress. The BELLMAN (also a very ancient institution at Chester) now usually acts as Mayor's Porter, and still, like his brother officer of yore, precedes the Mayor at his state visit once a year to the Cathedral, carrying aloft the time-honoured, silver-decked, BAMBOO.

T. HUGHES.

[568] **HARE HUNT IN THE STREETS OF CHESTER.**
[No. 445.—Jan. 1.]

As on this day, fifty-six years ago, viz., on March 13th, 1823, the peculiar sight of a hare hunt through the street of Chester was seen. It appears that

"The hounds were in the neighbourhood of the eastern suburbs, and a poor hare, supposed to have been frightened from her seat by the music, made her public entry into Chester through Foregate-street pursued by a single hound, both very much fatigued. The latter broke down in a very short time, but puss made the best of her way due west. When near the end of Newgate-street a terrier dog caught scent, and set off after puss sans ceremonie. When she got near the Cross a pack was formed, composed of mastiffs, curs, pugs, and all the other canine crew on the spot. The hare continued her course down Watergate-street, and made a bolt near the Linen Hall, where she escaped from the fangs of her pursuers, and, we understand, was purchased from her capturer by Mr. HESKETH."

The gentleman here referred to was the late Mr. HENRY HESKETH, merchant, and for many years the Government Distributor of Stamps at Chester.

C. THORNTON.

MARCH 19, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MARCH 22.—Edward Keene consecrated 21st
Bishop of Chester 1752
" 24.—2800 foot and 200 horse soldiers
shipped for Ireland 1589
J. H.

Original Documents.

[569] **THE PLAGUE AT CHESTER, 1647.**
[Nos. 279, 306.—Oct. 2, 16.]

Of the terrible PLAGUE which devastated the city in the year 1647, so few well authenticated particulars have hitherto been published, that the following information respecting it may not prove unacceptable to those interested in the history of the place.

No. 1,922 of the Harleian MSS. contains a large number of memoranda and diary records relating to Chester and its vicinity, apparently in the handwriting of one of the Bandle Holme family. Page 27 of this MS. contains—

"A Catalogue of the Burials in the city of Chester of the Plague from the 22nd of June 1647 to the 14. of Octob. 1647."

The table is in print to the end of the 16th week, the rest being in manuscript, this latter extending the period to the end of November. During these 23 weeks 2,032 of the inhabitants died, a frightful amount of mortality, especially when it is considered probable the total number of the population did not at the time exceed 10,000, many of whom fled when the disease first manifested itself. The disease appears to have been at its height from July 20th to August 31st—the 5th to the 10th week, both inclusive:—

Parishes.	1st week	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd
Oswald's.....	11	8	14	10	20	20	37	47	40	46	29	40	21	12	6	8	8	4	2	3	6	4	...
Peter's.....	...	2	3	3	6	8	14	11	5	9	6	2	2	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Trinity.....	1	8	8	15	26	23	32	25	23	13	13	8	3	4	2	6	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
Martin's.....	9	8	13	6	16	18	23	19	22	13	10	2	1	2	2	1	1	...	3	3	2	1	...
Marie's.....	6	9	25	19	30	28	20	16	23	26	28	22	8	14	8	9	5	3	4	7	5	1	...
Olive's.....	3	...	12	10	1	5	6	3	4	4	1	...	3	3	1	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...
Bridget's.....	7	6	9	5	4	3	9	7	2	4	5	5	3	3	...	4	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
John's.....	2	2	5	7	15	27	26	15	24	22	25	24	31	22	14	19	18	13	14	15	7	4	...
Michael's.....	36	12	23	16	7	4	9	3	3	4	3	8	3	3	4	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Post-house.....	...	...	29	...	28	15	34	26	8	30	3	2	1	6	3	3	1	2	...	2	...	1	...
	64	56	141	114	153	156	279	182	166	123	113	72	69	42	52	44	29	23	31	21	11	8	...

(Total, 2,032.)

The following is a brief summary of the foregoing table, and shows the total number of deaths in each parish:—

Oswald's.....	396	Bridget's.....	86
Peter's.....	75	John's.....	358
Trinity.....	232	Michael's.....	130
Martin's.....	173	Post-house.....	208
Marie's.....	315		
Olive's.....	59	Total.....	2032

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[570] CHESTER AND THE IRISH WAR.

(No. 385.)

The following appropriate supplement to a recent article in THE SHEAF on this subject is taken from the "STATE PAPERS—Ireland":—

"July 10, 1808.

JOHN SAVAGE, Mayor of Chester, to SALISBURY.

On the 8th of this present, the wind favorable for the transportation, the foot forces embarked, and the next morning, immediately after midnight, departed to sea, and are, I hope, safely arrived at DUBLIN. Notwithstanding every effort to keep them together, and to prevent the soldiers running away, yet, of the whole 700, 37 have run away and made their escape during their stay here, and 29 after their repair to the Port.

Nos. embarked 625."

Sandymount, Dublin. WM. M. GIBBON, LL.D.

The JOHN SAVAGE who, as Mayor of Chester, transmits this intelligence to the then Secretary of State, Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, was three years afterwards created "Sir John Savage, baronet, of Rock Savage," which house his father in his lifetime erected and made his principal dwelling. In the same year that the son, Sir John, served his Mayoralty of Chester he was also High Sheriff of the county. He had been chosen Mayor during his temporary absence from Chester, where he then resided; and his son and successor, Sir Thomas, was on the same occasion elected an alderman of the city, but declined the honour. Sir John died in July, 1615, and was succeeded in the baronetcy and estates by his said son Sir Thomas, who was by King Charles I., in 1626, created Viscount Savage of Rock Savage, a peerage which, like the family itself, not long afterwards became extinct in the direct male line.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[571] CHESTER VOLUNTEERS AT OSWESTRY.

In 1804, when every third paragraph in our country papers told of rumours of invasion and preparations to meet it, and the volunteer corps marched into each others' towns for exercise and duty, the VOLUNTEERS of CHESTER for a brief term made OSWESTRY and

ELLESMERE their headquarters, and, by the records that are preserved, it would seem to the satisfaction of all parties. First, as regards the regiment, the following will speak for itself:—

"Oswestry, June 28th, 1804.

"The Officers of the Division of the ROYAL CHESTER VOLUNTEERS, quartered at Oswestry, beg leave to return their most sincere thanks to the Mayor, Corporation, and Inhabitants of the town of Oswestry for the distinguished attention and politeness with which they have treated every individual of the division during their residence among them, for this one month of permanent duty; and with every sentiment of gratitude take leave of the town and neighbourhood."

On the same day the CORPORATION of Oswestry met, and passed an equally complimentary resolution, as the following record will show:—

"At a Meeting of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Councilmen of the Town of OSWESTRY, held at the Guildhall the 28th day of June, 1804,

It was unanimously resolved,

That the conduct of the CHESTER VOLUNTEERS, under the command of COLONEL BARNSTON, during their being quartered in the town on permanent duty, having been uniformly regular, attentive, and soldier-like, and in every respect consistent with the important objects of the service, the thanks of the Corporation be given to the Officers and Privates; and that the Mayor be requested to communicate this resolution to Colonel Barnston.

LEWIS JONES, Town Clerk.

The Chester regiment mustered a thousand strong, and they marched from Oswestry and Ellesmere on their return home after this month's duty, on the 29th of June. The Ellesmere division was under the command of Lieut-Colonel WRENCH. They all rested for the night at WREXHAM, and on the following day (Saturday) proceeded from Wrexham, and were met on the road by their own ARTILLERY COMPANY, with two field-pieces, ammunition waggons, &c. As the whole body approached the city, they were saluted by the Royal Tender lying in the river. The reception in Chester was most enthusiastic.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[572] WILLIAM LAWES.

In the Notices of the Composers of the "Anthems for the use of the Temple Church" I observe that "William Lawes became a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal in 1602. He espoused the Royal cause against the Parliament, and at the SIEGE OF CHESTER, in 1645, lost his life by an accidental shot. The King's regret was such that he 'put on particular mourning for his dear servant, William Lawes, whom he commonly called the Father of Music.'"

The Temple.

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

Queries.

[573]

MALPAS SYCAMORES.

In the park-like grounds of MALPAS Rectory, commanding an extensive view over Cheshire, the beauty of the spot is greatly enhanced by the splendid Sycamore Trees studded over the estate. Is it known who planted these trees, and in what year the tasteful work was done? I think I recognise, in the initials "W. T. K." of a correspondent of THE SHEAF, some one who ought to know, or who could at all events ascertain without much trouble.

A. WOODMAN.

[574]

BUMPER'S LANE, SEALAND.

This curiously sounding name must have been given to the Lane in question within the last 200 years, I presume; for prior to that date the whole locality was within the tidal flow of the river Dee. When, and for what reason, was it so named? H. S. A.

[575]

THE CURFEW.

THE CURFEW BELL is still rung every evening at eight o'clock at Cheadle, Wilmslow, Bowdon, Prestbury, and Macclesfield (St. Michael's). Can any of our correspondents give the names of other Cheshire Churches where this ancient custom is still kept up?

P. M. HERFORD.

Gateley Road, Cheadle.

[576]

ROBERT FOULKES OF CHESTER,
GENT., IN 1729.

Can any of your readers inform me who the Mr. Robert Foulks of Chester was, whose burial at Macclesfield in 1729 is thus recorded in the Register there.

"1729 Julii 20. Robertus Foulks, Gen., de Cest.
Buried"—(Macclesfield Register Vol. vi.)

J. P. EARWAKER.

Withington, Manchester.

Replies.

[577]

CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

[Nos. 182, 472, 542.—July 31, 1878; Jan. 12, Feb. 26.]

I have recently met with two instances of remarkable longevity in Cheshire:—

MARGARET BROADHURST, born at Hedge Row, Rainow, near Macclesfield, and died (circ. 1650) aged 104 years. She is said to be buried at Prestbury, but (I believe) the entry of her burial is not to be found in the Parish registers.

JOSEPH WATSON, born at Mossley Common, in the Parish of Legh, co. Lancaster, and for 64 years Park-keeper at Lyme; buried at Disley, June 2nd, 1753, in the 106th year of his age. Joseph Watson's wife lived to be 93 years of age. (*History of the House of Lyme*, by William Beaumont. Warrington, 1876, p. 189.)

Gatley Road, Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

[578] SUTTONIAN METHOD OF INOCULATION.

[No. 379.—Nov. 20.]

Our active correspondent "A. R.," quoting a paragraph from the *Chester Courant* of June 27, 1768, on the system of Inoculation invented "by Mr. Sutton in conjunction with Mr. Thomas, surgeon, of Hawarden," incidentally asks, "Who was Mr. THOMAS?"

MR. HONORATUS LEIGH THOMAS settled at Hawarden, Flintshire, as a surgeon, somewhere about the year 1759, and soon attained a respectable and lucrative practice. This was probably due in part to his marriage, at Hawarden, on January 28th, 1760, with Maria Margareta, younger sister of the celebrated Alderman JOHN BOYDELL, engraver and print-seller, Lord Mayor of London in 1791; whose father, Josiah BoydeLL, had, about the year 1732, settled in Hawarden as a land surveyor, at the instigation of his friend and patron, Sir John Glynnne, bart.

A large family was the result of this marriage—one son being the late Honoratus Leigh Thomas, an eminent surgeon, of Leicester Place, London—another, and the elder of the two, Mr. John Thomas, of St. Asaph, surgeon—and a third, Mr. Josiah Thomas, of Chester, chemist.

In 1779, or thereabouts, there entered the service of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas at Hawarden, as nursemaid, a young girl of the village, one Emma Harte, then just 13 years old; whose good looks were so much belauded by her neighbours that, at 16, vanity led her to seek her fortune in London. There she passed through many vicissitudes, some, it must be admitted, not very reputable; until in 1791, at the ripe age of 25, she became the wife of SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON, the English Ambassador for 36 years at the Court of Naples, where she was long the favourite companion and confidante of the Queen. While ruling the roost at Naples, she wound her toils round the heart of the immortal NELSON, whose fortunes she followed, and whose companion she remained, until his heroic death at Trafalgar, in 1805.

The elder brother, Mr. John Thomas, of St. Asaph, who was baptised at Hawarden, December 30, 1760, married his cousin Annie, daughter of Samuel BoydeLL, Esq., of The Manor, Hawarden.

A grandson and namesake of Mr. Thomas, and the son of Mr. John Thomas, of St. Asaph, surgeon, was Captain Honoratus Leigh Thomas, of the East

India Company's Navy, who purchased the property and built the house of Bryn Elwy, near St. Asaph, where he died October 25, 1876, leaving no issue now surviving.

Mr. Honoratus Leigh Thomas, of London, had several children,—of whom, a daughter, Sophia BoydeLL, married her cousin, Captain H. L. Thomas; another married Dr. Sutherland, an eminent London physician; a third became the wife of Mr. G. P. B. James, the celebrated novelist; and a fourth married Mr. Hutchins, the well-known dentist, of London.

Mr. THOMAS, senr., to whom A. R.'s Query mainly relates, died at Hawarden on July 10, 1805, aged 76, and was buried there: his widow, Maria Margareta, followed him on October 5, 1821, aged 81. Thus, within a period of four months, the old master of Emma, LADY HAMILTON, and the hero she so passionately worshipped were consigned to their earthly rest,—the one in the peaceful 'God's Acre' at Hawarden, the other within the sacred walls of St. Paul's Cathedral.

There are descendants in the female line of our Hawarden surgeon (children of his son Josiah), still resident in Chester and its vicinity. EDITOR.

[579] JOHN DOD THE DECALOGIST.

[Nos. 401, 430, 520, 553.—December 4, 18, February 19, March 5.]

I have been much amused at the little controversy which has of late appeared in your columns between the Rev. Percy M. Herford and his learned friend Mr. Thomas Helsby; for I was under the impression that the date of the birth of the Rev. John Dod (the Decalogist) and that of the baptism of Dr. Thomas Dod (Rector of Malpas, &c.), were facts with which the most elementary student in Cheshire history should be acquainted. The well known portrait of the former prefixed to the 1661 edition of his sermons has on it these words—"Ob. An. Ch. 1645, Ætatis sue 96," which gives the date of his birth as c. 1550. The baptism of the latter took place at Shochlach on December the 4th, 1576.

It will perhaps interest many of your readers to know that the best account of the writings of the Rev. John Dod and their various editions, &c., is to be found in a little octavo pamphlet published in 1875, and entitled, "Memorials of the Rev. John Dod, M.A., Rector of Fawsley, Northamptonshire, 1624-1645. To which is prefixed a brief account of his life, with appendix, containing Bibliographical List of the Writings of John Dod, and References to Biographical Notices of him, &c. Fac-simile portrait. Northampton: Printed and published by Taylor and Son. London: J. B. Smith, Soho Square, 1875."

The portrait prefixed to this pamphlet is a fac-simile of the one which is contained in the 1661 edition of John Dod's SERMONS. Underneath it are these words:—

A grave divine; precise, not turbulent;
And never guilty of the Churches rent;
Meek even to sinners; most devout to GOD;
This is but part of the due praise of DOD.

C. B.

The Bibliography of Dod's writings and the various editions through which they passed, is a model of what such Bibliographies should be. It was compiled by the Rev. W. D. Sweeting, M.A.

J. P. FARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[580] THE MUSTARD HOUSES, CHESTER.

[No. 472.—January 15.]

These houses (or warehouses for the storage of spices, which I rather suspect they were when first built) were situate on the banks of the River Dee, opposite Hand-bridge,—a locality in after times commonly known as SKINNER'S LANE, just outside and to the north of the Bridge Gate. The entire site of the Lane is now included within the walls of the modern and enlarged County Prison.

The MUSTARD HOUSES are named in a writ of livery sued out of the Exchequer of Chester by Thomas, son of Hugh de Holes; wherein he recites that he inherited from his said father, *inter alia*, "three stalls in the Dee, together with the boat belonging to the same stalls, held of the Abbey of Dieulacresse; also three messuages in Chester called 'Mustard houses,' held of the Dean and Chapter of the Church of St. John at Chester," &c. This writ bears date December 20th, 1415. The few early records now remaining about our old collegiate Church of St. John make, so far as I am aware, no reference whatever to this ancient property of its long dissolved Chapter.

I find nothing more extant about these "ware-houses" until the first year of the mayoralty of Henry Gee, 25th Henry VIII. (1533), when in a Corporation Rental inserted by his orders in the Assembly Book, one of the tenants is described as "Rob'te Crosse, for a new house at the mustert houses, xijd."

In 1574, Richard Dutton being Mayor, a jury was sworn to inquire into the Rental of the Corporation, and in due time made presentment of all such annual receipts as were then known to be extant and paid. Amongst the city's property in "BRUDG STRETE," the jury reported that

"Mr. WILLM. BALL, Ald', howldethe by lease, beringe date the xvijth yere of the Raigae of our Sou'agne lord henry the eight, for eu' in fee ferme, one howse of one bay Called A work howse w'thout the walls of the Citie, nere vnto certaine howses Com'onlie called the mustard howses, and A S'ten p'cell of voide ground Adioyninge vnto thend of the said howse, contayninge estward from the said howse fve yards, and in lyke bred of the said howse, To haue and hould the same howse and voyde grounde for eu' of the yerely Rent of.....xijd."

"Rob't Brerewood, as he saith, by his brothers will houldeth one work howse of ij Bayes, at the water side nere the Mustard howses: he saith there is A fee ferme of the same, but it is in kepinge with Edward Marten, and therefore not to be sene, of the yerely rent of.....xijd."

"The same Rob't Brerewood houldeth A shewring adioyninge to the howse that he howldeth by his brothers will, and paieth yerely for the sameiiijd."

Thus matters remained, we may presume, until the exigencies of the CIVIL WAR altered the aspect of the entire suburbs of Chester. Chapels, mansions, shops, cottages, &c., were most of them then pulled or burnt down by the citizens "to prevent them being a shelter to the enemy." Amongst them, says Broster's *Siege of Chester* (copying from Stones' transcript of Francis Bassano's MSS.), "the Wet Glovers' work houses under the Walls near the Bridge, were all demolished," and along with these would of course vanish the MUSTARD HOUSES, the subject of these remarks.

T. HUGHES.

MARCH 26, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MARCH 23.—Thomas Capenhurst, 12th Abbot of	
Chester, died.....	1265
" 29.—Roman Altar found in a field at	
Great Boughton	1821
" 30.—Richard Vaughan, 7th Bishop of	
Chester, died Bishop of London....	1607
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[581] THE ROYAL AID FOR CHARLES II.

In 1664-5, as had been the case more than once before that date, and was often enough so afterwards, the exchequer of the Royal Prodigal was almost absolutely empty; and yet, like the Khedives and Sultans of our own times, there was little or no attempt on the Crown's part at anything like retrenchment. A war with Holland, chiefly waged and with only scant and varying success upon the seas, did not help to mend matters: while at home, faction and discontent had fanned themselves almost into open flame, as the series of Letters and Lieutenantancy Orders from Oulton Park, printed in recent Nos. of THE SHEAF, very clearly indicate.

The excessive taxation had raised up much bad blood, and the collectors found great difficulty, and often open opposition, in gathering the Mises and other State impositions. At last, appeals were made to the patriotism of the country for a voluntary ROYAL AID, ostensibly to enable the War to be carried on against the Dutch fleet, but evidently not alone for that purpose.

The following Document, contributed like the former ones by SIR PHILIP GREY-EGERTON, Bart., will shew the straits to which CHARLES and his ministers were reduced at the opening of the year 1665. It reveals to us, moreover, in a confidential sort of way, how urgent was the call then made on the loyalty of our country to meet the enormous strain upon the national exchequer.

"Ffor his Ma'ties special Service.

To our very Loving friends S'r Willoughbye Aston, S'r Peter Leycester, Barrts., S'r Jefferey Shakerlei, & S'r froulke Lucye, Kn'ts., Peter Dutton, & John Ratcliffe, Esqrs., or to any one or more of them, to be communicated to the rest of the Commission'rs ffor the Royall Ayde, in the Countye of Chest'r.

After our hearty com'endations. HIS MA'TIE hath been very sensible what damage hath befallen his Service in the Returnes of those Moneyes which have been given him by former Acts of Parl'm't. And though we, his Ministe's of his Revenue, have been very sollicitous, & by many Lett'rs directed to the then Com'rs for assessing & leavying those Moneyes, did endeavour to have procured suitable payments to the times therein prefixed, yet too often we were disappointed therein; and to this day severall summes long since due lye out unpaid, and, wh'ch is worse, having bene paid by ye country, are retained in ye hands of ye Receivers thereof; all which hath led his Ma'tie not onely to appoint Receivers, but Soliciters to waite upon ye Com'rs for this ROYAL AID, and to give them timely advice, and to pray from them a Redresse in any thing that obstructs ye speedy assessing, collecting, or leavying of those monyes.

And because a constant Intelligence and Correspondence may be held between the Countyes and this place, Wee, by his Ma'ties approbation, have appointed S'r Henry Vernon, Kn't & Barrt., S'r William Doyley, K't & Barr't, and Robt. Scowen, Esq'r., or any of them, to keepe the same, and to sit constantly in Westminster, and to have recourse unto us upon all occasions that may expedite that service. And though wee doe not doubt of ye good affection & care of ye Commis'srs in General; yet ye assurance wee have in you led us to recom'end it unto you to make this business your particular and extraordinary care.

Therefore in ye first place, wee pray you that these Gentlemen here may correspond with you as occasion is; and that ye Receiv'rs may from time to time bee countenanced & assisted by you, & called upon

& inabled to returne his Ma'ties' moneys sutable to ye times prescribed by the Act; & y't Roger Roe, of Bockardine, in ye Countie of Salop, Gent., ye Solicit'r appointed in your Countie, may from time to time have recourse unto you & find yo'r helpe as hee shall want it. And whereas ye Receiv'r is to give security to his Ma'tie for his due answering ye moneys that shall come into his hands, Wee pray you or any one of you to take his bond in ye Moyetie of one whole years Receipt for his performing ye same (a forme whereof wee have sent unto you); as likewise such another subscription or declaration of the Receiv'rs ffreinds as may make them lyable to his performancies.

Wee have purposely waved the entrance of all securities in ye Excheq'r, because wee would take of ye charge, as likewise y't constant tie which is apprehended to bee laid upon men's estates by y't course; being willing y't ye security for ye Receiv'rs shall every halfe yeare, upon ye Receiv'r clearing his Accounts for y't halfe yeare, bee taken in & received if ye parties desire it, and therefore wee shall pray you, as this is an encouragem't for one freind to declare for another, soe you will accept ye Declaration of noe such persons but such as are reputed responsible. Nevertheless what wee say privately to yourselves y't wee had rather, in case ye Receiv'r offer you sleight men, y't hee should for this Quarter exercise his office upon his owne Bond, then to seeme to bee strengthened by such Persons who really add nothing unto him. And if in ye Soll'er you find not an abilitie & diligence sutable to the affaire, y't you advertise us thereof: by this method, & these Consid'ations you may perceive how much this businesse is laid to heart, & truly if any businesse have required it of longe time this is it.

And unless the Moneys granted by this Act come timely to support his Ma'ties present ingagement, how fatal it may be to ye publike wee know you are sensible; and therefore wee further recom'end to you, & by you to all such gentlemen who have such good affections, and are in soe good a condition to doe it, which wee hope may bee prosperous amongst you (& is begun in Hampshire), that they will advance & lend one yeare's assessm't, or a good part thereof, upon their Countie, and take for their security their own assessm't; w'ch quarterly from Lady Day last (for the first quarter his Ma'tie makes use of immediately) will bee repaid to them with interest after six p'r cent., & a further reward and bounty after three p'r cent.: & upon these termes any such single p'son as would pay his assessm't for the whole time, or for one entire yeare, may receive abatem't accordingly by ye hands of the Receiv'rs.

When we consider what enemies wee have to doe with, how publike hearted ye private persons of y's nac'on are, how much his Ma'ties expenses for this first yeare will exceed ye summe y't is given for the yeare, wee may justly hope y't ye serious p'sons in each County will consid'r how necessary for ye Publike good these endeav'rs of ou's are, and entertaining them with sutable thoughts to ye

importance of this buisinesse. There is nothing proposed to be done but what is voluntary. There is nothing of Hasard in ye securitie. There can nothing more import the Publique wellfare, & therefore wee hope you will with ye same freedom communicate ye'r thoughts to us as we have done to you. And yo'r proceedings herein wee shall as there is occasion communicate to his Ma'tie, & soe bidding you heartily farewell we Rest

Yo'r verey loving friends

T. SOUTHAMPTON,
Southampton House, the ASHLEY.
first day of Aprill 1665."

These difficulties staved off, as they ultimately were, by great national as well as individual sacrifice, other grievous ills, to wit, THE PLAGUE, and the terrible FIRE OF LONDON, followed close in their wake, but with these we will not burden our readers to-day.

EDITOR.

[582] THE BOUNDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

(No. 526.—Feb. 19.)

Our active contributor, "J. H.," having asked for some authoritative description of the CITY BOUNDARIES, we have determined to print, at intervals of two or three months, some of the earlier perambulations set down in the ancient ORDERS OF ASSEMBLY. They will be found very useful for comparison with each other, and, if intelligently studied, interesting as showing what changes of condition and ownership have been effected on the very borders of our old city during the past five centuries.

We shall commence with a detailed account of the Boundaries, as set forth in a translation of the Charter of Edward the Black Prince, the original of which is preserved amongst the city archives at the Town Hall. The charter bears date 28 Edward III., 1355. The translation appears to have been made late in the 15th century; and we give it verbatim as it is recorded at the commencement of the series of Corporation ASSEMBLY BOOKS:—

"THE MAYRES AND BOUNDRES OF THE LIE'TIES OF
THE CITIE OF CHEST'R, OF OLDE Tymes
EX' CISATT.

That is to Wyt, from Clan'ton waye anyndex the iron Bryge, and also ascodyng by a certen sicke unto A grene dicke, Also callid the Mayre dicke; in foloyng that Dicke unto a certen way that Ledithe from Bromfide vnto Chester unto An old Dicke nere a certen Marle pit; and so in foloyng That Dicke anynds the north p'te vnto a certen waye that Ledythe Anyndex the occidentall p'tis betwene the land of Rob't Bradeford, vnto the lond of Michail Scot vnto the hed of the Same dyche; and so in foloyng the land of the forsaid Robert of Bradeford vnto the land of the prioresse and the Nunnes of Chester, the whiche forsothe lande befor was the land of Thomas Danyers; and from thense in foloyng a sicke unto a way that Ledythe from

Chester towards Kynarton, and ou' that waye vnto the toune lache, and so by the Middis of that toune of the north p'te vnto the land Pull in Saltney, otherwise callid Blake pull; and so in foloyng that pull vnto the Wat'r of Dee, vnto a c'ten Ryu' of the other p'tie of the water of De Descending into the same Water at the pulbrige; & so In foloing that Ri'u' vnto the Stanen brigue, and from thens vnto Bachepull, vnto a c'ten sicke callid flokerebrok vnto Bispediche; and so foloing y't towards the est p'ties and aft'wardes foloinnge that Dicke anendex the Southe p'tie vnto a Waye that ledis from Stanford brigue toward Chest'r; in foloing that waye vnto a certen Dicke of the est p'tie of the chapell of Boghton, and from thens vnto a Waye that ledeth from Chester towards Torforlegh; in foloing that Waye in lifyng the grange of the lepurris, of the est p'te, vnto the holghe waye that ledys vnto Botherbach vnder the water of Dee; and so on in foloinng the Rype of that Wat'r vnto huntynghdon wode, and from thens vnto the Iron Brigue Aforesaid."

This early setting out of the BOUNDS OF THE CITY in the Charter of the Black Prince is extremely valuable historically, as the first attempt on record to proclaim the sacred limits, beyond which no authority whatever save the Crown,—no, not even the Sword of the Earldom itself,—should presume to meddle with the Prince's free citizens of Chester.

By the light of this, and the later Perambulations of the Bounds which we shall hereafter print, it will be easy to identify the places and persons named in each record. For instance, early in the document mention is made of a "Dicke nere a certen Marle pit," indicating that we are dealing with the neighbourhood, as well as with the ancient derivation, of the township of Marleston next the Lache.

Then we reach the land of Robert Bradeford, an individual for whom we shall have to look among the Cheshire documents in the Public Records, for I find no other trace of him locally. There, however, in the Recognizance Rolls of the County Palatine, under date March 1, 1376, we find Sir William Trussell, knight, of Cubbleston, granted licence by Richard, Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester, to purchase from

"Thomas de Bradford 215 acres of land, six acres and two parts of an acre of meadow in Bruwardes-halgh, Marleston, and Lache, a pasture called Salt-gresse, common of pasture throughout Saltency Marsh, &c., &c., which King Edward, his great-grandfather (abavus noster) formerly Earl of Chester, granted to Hervey de Bradford and Robert his son, ancestors of the said Thomas, in exchange for certain lands and tenements and other things in the forest of Mara, &c., &c., to hold for life by the service of a rose yearly, with reversion to the said William and his heirs."

We are thus advertized that the Robert de Bradeford who had in 1346 been appointed custodian of the royal Castle and town of Hope, and who was the son of

Hervy de Bradeford, citizen of Chester, owned lands on the southern margin of the city's territory in 1355; and that his son Thomas Bradford, Mayor of Chester in 1377, exchanged the said lands in that very year with Sir William Trussell.

Closely following Robert Bradford's name in the Black Prince's Charter comes that of Michaill Soot, for whom we should look in vain in our city's annals. But turning again to the Recognizance Rolls, under date Dec. 10, 1366, we find Edward, Prince of Wales, granting a pardon to

"Michael Soot and Joan his wife, for an exchange made between the said Michael and the Nuns of Chester, by which the said Nuns gave the town of Wallerscote and one bovat of land in Bradeford, near Shurlache (both in this county) in exchange to the said Michael and Joan for the messuage, 87 acres of land, and the third part of an acre of meadow in Marlston and Lache, held by the said Michael in right of his wife."

The prioress and convent of the Nuns of St. Mary had already in 1352 become possessed by purchase of two messuages and 40 acres of land in Lache, near Marlston, and this exchange with Michael Soot made them proprietors of altogether a very considerable estate on the boundary line of the city, to which in later Perambulations more especial attention is given.

"Blake pull" (Blacon pool), "Stanen brigge" (Stone Bridge), "Bispediche" (now remembered by Bishopefeld), the "grange of the lepurris" (St. Giles' Hospital for lepers), &c., will supply all that needs explanation in this most interesting document on the BOUNDARIES OF CHESTER CITY. EDITOR.

Notes.

[583] MOW COP DIALECT.
(Eighth Paper.)

CLIP. To embrace, to encircle with the arms.

—A.S. *Clyppan*, to embrace.

He kisseth her, and *clippeth* her full oft.

—Chaucer, *C. T.*, *The Merchant's Tale*.

Tho, (then) fast her *clipping* twixt his armës twain,
Extremely joyed in so happy sight,
And soon forgot his former sickly pain:
But she, the more to seem such as she hight,
Coily rebutted his embracement light.

—Spencer, *F. Q.*, III, viii.

"Even thus," quoth she, "the warlike god embraced me";

And then she *clipped* Adonis in her arms:

Ah! that I had my lady at this bay,
To kiss and *clip* me till I run away!

—Shakespeare, *The Passionate Pilgrim*.

FADGE. A lump, a heap, a quantity of anything.

A greet (great) *fadge*.

'Her oxen may dye i' the house, Billie,
And her kye into the byre;
And I sall hae nothing to my sell,
Bot a fat *fadge* by the fyre.'

—Percy's *Reliques*.

*FADGE, (Scottish). A thick loaf of bread; figuratively, any coarse heap of stuff.—*Glossary*.

The word is used by Shakespeare, but in another sense. In *Twelfth Night*, A. ii., Sc. ii., Viola asks herself the question, "How will this *fadge*? (suit.) I do not remember to have seen the word elsewhere.

SLOP. A thin loose upper garment, sometimes worn by labouring men. A.S. *Slop*, a frock, or overgarment.

"His oerest *slop* it is not worth a mite."—Chaucer, *C.T.*, *The Canon's Yeoman's Prologue*.

YARBS. Herbs. It is chiefly or only certain old people who now talk of *garbs* and *garb* tea. All the more reason, perhaps, for binding up the word in THE SHEAF.

In Charles Kingsley's *Westward Ho!* Lucy Passmore, a white witch of Devon, is represented as calling her simples *garbs*.

As *Westward Ho!* deals with the latter portion of the sixteenth century, we may perhaps safely infer, that the word, in this form, was in use amongst certain classes (over and above the 'witch' element) in Devonshire 300 years ago. And, as out of the way places in that county are probably not more advanced now than like places in this, it is likely the word may also be used in Devonshire still.

LEATH. Leisure, rest.

"One wants a bit o' *leath* sometimes."

QUIFF. A dodge, a quirk. "Theer's a *quiff* in it."

SLANKER. To slacken pace, to saunter. He *slanker't* behind. The "i" in "behind" is usually pronounced short.

STREVE. To stray. "Th' ky's *strove't* off somewhere."

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Queries.

[584] A TUMULT AT CHESTER.

Can any of your readers give an account of a tumult at Chester on the 23rd December, 1803? At the Assizes held in August, 1804, three of the Volunteers belonging to the Chester Company were tried, charged with taking part in the disturbance, and one was found

guilty. Common report seems to have pointed to the whole regiment as being disorderly, but the event of the trial proved otherwise.

A. R.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

[585] CHESHIRE ARCHERY.

Who was the author of an "ODE ON ARCHERY, respectfully inscribed to the Bowmen of Cheshire," and inserted in the *Chester Courant* for October 23rd, 1821, under the initials of "T. K., Chester?" It is a graceful, vigorous Ode enough, and I should suppose the author must be well known in Archery circles.

L. L.

Replies.

[586] JOHN PHILLIPS OF KINGSLEY.

[Nos. 216, 392.—Oct. 2, Nov. 27, 1878.]

In *An Account of the Cheshire Township of Appleton*, by William Beaumont (Warrington, 1877), there is given (p. 52), the following copy of an inscription in the graveyard of High Cliff Nonconformist Chapel, near Warrington:—

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF
THE REV. MR. JOHN PHILLIPS,
MINISTER OF KINGSLEY,
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
IN THE 49TH YEAR OF HIS
AGE, AND IN THE YEAR 1701.

I hope Mr. Beaumont will pardon me for pointing out that there seem to be two errors in this copy. The name should be "Phillips," not "Phillipp," and the date of death should be 1761, instead of 1701. (*Cf. CHESHIRE SHEAF*, vol. 1, p. 120.) Is this tombstone still preserved at High Cliff?

P. M. HERFORD.

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

[587] A ROYALIST FREE PASS.

[Nos. 349, 394, 499.—Nov. 6, 27, Feb. 5.]

I have in my possession one of these "Protections," under the sign manual of King Charles I., in favour of William Jennings, of Allington. It runs thus:—

"Our Royall pleasure and Command is that all ye Officers & Souldiers of Our Army and all other Our Subjects of what quality soever, forbear to commit or offer any Injury, violence, opposition, spoile or damage in any kind, to ye person, family, servants, cattell, horses, goodes, or other the estate of WILLIAM JENNINGS, of Allington, &c., &c. Given at our Court at Oxford, ye 16th day of December, ye 18th yeare of Our Reign, 1642."

Any further particulars about William Jennings and his family would be interesting.

Worthenbury.

C.A.S.P.

[588] THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.

[No. 537.—Feb. 26.]

I am not sufficiently acquainted with Chester to know what building Gibson, the sculptor, referred to when he passed so high a compliment on the architect. If Mr. Harrison did possess the taste Mr. Gibson assigned him, how are we to account for the fact that he designed two such buildings as the Tower on Moel Vamman, and the Brick Church at Whittington? The former doubtless most of your readers know; and I can assure them that the latter (which took the place of a fine Gothic stone building) is about as mean a looking erection as it is possible to conceive! Happily the present rector and churchwardens have had the taste to almost entirely conceal the exterior with ivy, and have done something to make the inside less like a barn. The term "eminent," applied to Mr. Harrison, I presume, meant nothing. Everybody was "eminent," "ingenious," or "respectable" in the newspapers seventy years ago; as everybody is "esquire" now-a-days.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[589] THE BRAST MARKET, CHESTER.

[No. 549.—March 5.]

The site of the present Cattle Market in Gorse Stacks is upon the line of the ancient Horn Lane, which tradition, in unison with its name, says was in mediæval days the Smithfield of Chester. Even to our own times, the Cattle Fairs were held from time immemorial in Upper Northgate Street, less than three hundred yards away.

It is certain though that at a period more remote than our present local records cover, the BRAST MARKET was somewhere on the east side of Lower Bridge Street, between Pepper Street and St. Olave Street. In proof of this, when old Henry Gee set Chester and its records to rights in the time of his efficient mayoralty in 1583, amongst the Wards of the City as then of old set out, the following were described as the limits of

"THE BRISTMARKET WARDE.—The one half of pep' strete on the Southe syde, and bothe sydes of the brige strete unto the castyll lane and saynt olas lane; and in the same Warde is an aulderman, one constable and iij pore foulks to lyue by allmes; and the constable and pore folks be admytted by ye mayre for the yere beinge, w't consent of thalderman of the Warde."

T. HUGHES.

[590] ANSTIL.

[No. 564.—March 12.]

I think W. T. K. will find his word is "hansell," which is very familiar to us Cheshire people.

In Col. EGBERTON LEIGH's *Glossary* I find—"Gee me a hansell"—i.e., be the first to buy something of me—the first purchaser in a shop newly opened.

"To hanel our sharp blades" is to use them for the first time.—*Sir John Oldcastle.*

Newton.

H.

Your correspondent W. T. K. in the "CHESHIRE SHEAF" of March 12th asks for the derivation of the word "Anstill." I think he must mean "Hansel," which is frequently made use of in Wrexham, and means the first money received for the first sale made. I have often seen the receiver of the money spit upon it—"for luck" as they say.

Bailey's *Dictionary*, 1763, defines it thus—"Hansel [Hand-sale; perhaps of *hand* and *syllan*, Sax., to give, to sell; or *Hansel*, Teut., a New Year's or Day's Gift] the Money taken upon the first Part sold of any commodity, or first in the Morning."

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

APRIL 2, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

APRIL 2.—Arthur, 13th Earl of Chester, died at Ludlow	1502
" 2.—Edward Keene installed by proxy 21st Bishop of Chester	1752
" 3.—Thos. Mallory, 12th Dean of Chester, died	1644
" 4.—Samuel Peploe nominated 20th Bishop of Chester	1726
" 5.—Sir Rowland Egerton of Egerton, Kt., created Baronet	1618
" 6.—City of Chester made a distinct County of itself (except the Castle)	1506
" 7.—The Centres of the Eastgate struck ...	1768
" 8.—Edward Whitby, Recorder of Chester, died	1613

Original Documents.

[591] THE LORDSHIP OF RUFFORD, LANCASHIRE.

The following interesting old English deed, copied from the evidences of the ancient Lancashire family of Hesketh, and bearing the attestation of a Mayor of Chester, relates to the only Lancashire possession of the Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester. To that foundation the Manor of Rufford rendered 40s. per annum. *Valor Eccles.*, v. 205; and cf. Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. ij., 401; and page 501, where it is said in a note that Rufford, or Rawgford, belonging to St. Werburgh's, is described at Pol. 41, c 2, in Harl. MS., 1865. The deed concerns the "meres," i.e., the boundaries of the Lordship of Rufford, at that time in the parish of Croston,

and flanked by the parishes of Ormskirk and North Meols—places at that time in the Diocese of Lichfield. Tarlton is near Rufford, and both places are situated on the Douglas. The document thus concerns a portion of Lancashire which has undergone an extraordinary change through the drainage of the immense lake called Marton, or Martin Mere. The local names in this region are in their signification nearly all connected with water. An island near the *Mere* of Croston was given to the Priory of Thetford. The Abbey of Cookersand obtained all the *holms* or marsh lands near Tarlton *Mere*. With one or two exceptions all the place-names in the deed have the same significance, and they seem to be co-terminous with the present limits of the Lordship of Rufford, which, with Tarlton, was in the hands of the Hesketh family. At the date of the document before us the Lord of Rufford was Sir Thomas Hesketh, Knight, who died 38 Henry VI. He had an uncle named Gilbert, who left descendants, one of whom may have been the parson of Shotwick, co. Chester.

It would appear that Sir Richard Walwaro, the curate of the Chapel of Tarlton, interested in some dispute about the bounds of the adjoining lordship, prepared a schedule of the land, and described it to the Mayor of Chester, who took down the declaration. Walwaro begins at the north with the mere brook, i.e., a brook running in or out of a mere now drained; then to the Monk's Lach (*lach*—the British and Gaelic word for a lake or pool, and of frequent occurrence in Lancashire under the autography *leech*—and *monk's* from the adjoining monastery); next, to the Pepynstrynde (perhaps to be identified with the *Strine* Brook, which falls into the old channel of the Douglas at Sallom Lock); and so on to the foot of Dogulles (i.e., the River Douglas); then following the course of the Eller beck (now simply called Eller brook, the British *beck* being dropped: it rises at Latham and gives its name to Eller moss); up to the Ox-pool lake, and past a fold called Green Fold, up to another Strynde. The other landmarks are successively a sink-fall, where the water ran for a short way underground; the Black pools, the colour being due to the peaty soil; and a ditch (perhaps the important watercourse called the "Runner") leading into the large mere. The more obscure of the places named have long since disappeared, the ancient watercourses being merged into the modern sluices.

To all the trwe men of cryst, &c., Wm. Rogerson, Mair of the cyte of Chestr' sendes gretyng. I the s'd Mair testefye, &c., that y'r came before me in the Pentise of the saide Cyte the 28 Aug't last passeth on' Ser Richard Walwaro p'son of the Chyroke of Tylston [Tarlton] & delyv't me a Seidell from S'r Henry Walwaro latte p'son of thes'd ch'e toochyng the meres of the lordshyp of Rofforth, & ther' swore be fore me & mony other a pon the holy Evangelystes that ye s'd S'r Henr' that is sekelye toke a pon hye charge as he wold answer' before God at the dai of dome yat the meres in the s'de Seidell apcifyet byn

the trwe meres of the s'de lordshyp the tenur' of ye wheche Seidell and meres is in the fowrme pat fowles [that followes] that is to saye be gynnyng at the Mer' broke on the northe p'ty & so foloyng ye s'de broke whyll hytte lastes & fro thens leynially to the monkes lach & so to the pepynstrynde & so leynially to the foote of Dogulles & so foloyng Dogulles upwart to Ellerbeke broke & so foloyng the s'de broke upward to the oxpullach that the grene folde is at the foote of the s'de lach the wheche fold was maide be the ten'ntes of Rofforth out of tyme of minde & so foloyng the s'd oxpullach whyll hyt lastes & fro thence leynially to the hede of the whytestrynde wech hase a pytte maide a boue hyt but a lytell space & so the last y't I was ther wer trees growyng in this s'de pytte & so foloyng the s'de strynde to the Synkfall & fro the synkefall the wat' rennyng on while a boufe the erthe & other whyle under the erth in to ye blakepulles & fro thens foloyng a dyeh in to the Mer'. And the s'de Richarde swor' be for me the s'de mair a pon the holy Evangelistes at the same tyme that the meres a boufe wryten to hys conseyte and consaunce ar' the trwe meres of the lordshyp a fore saide.

And on' that ther' come be fore me in the s'de Pentaise the dai a boufe wryten Ser Gelbart Hesketh p'st of Shotewykke & swere a pon' the holy Evangelistes that the meres a fore saide are the trwe meres of the s'de lordshyppe for as meche as he haide in y't s'de lordshyppe of long' tyme byn con'sant & of those meres haide goode knolage. In wyttenease of the wheche thyng' to these letters patentes I the s'de Mair' the seall of myn' offyce of Maryalte have sette. Gyffyn at Chestr' the xxviij'th dai of Auguste in the yer' of the Reyne of our sufferen lorde ye Kyng' Henr' sext aft' the Conquest of Englund xxvij [1449].

Martin mere was formerly the largest lake in Lancashire, consisting of over 3100 acres and being 18 miles in circumference. Leland and Camden describe it, as well as Dr. Leigh. The rights of fishing in it were matters of litigation in Sir Thomas Hesketh's time, 18 Eliz. (Duohy Calendar, iij. 7). The drainage of the mere was first attempted, 1692, by William Fleetwood of the Bank Hall. A more effective endeavour was made in 1781, by Thomas Eccleston, Esq., who called to his aid John Gilbert, the well-known engineer to the Duke of Bridgwater. When it was drained some canoes were found, which not a little puzzled Dr. Leigh in his *Natural Hist. of Lancashire and Cheshire*. The drainage works, which had their outlet at Crossens, at the mouth of the Ribble, were not completely successful until 1850.

Of Shotwick, in Wirrall Hundred, where Sir Gilbert Hesketh was beneficed, there are several deeds, embodying much local information, in the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls, extending from 1309 to 1412 (36th Report Deputy Keeper, pp. 432-3).

For assistance in the elucidation of this deed I have to express my acknowledgements to the Rev. Dr. Twiss,

of Mawdesley; to Mr. Porter, of Bufford; as well as to the Rev. T. N. Gibson.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

[Since the first part of this article was printed off, MR. BAILEY has had an opportunity of studying the original document more at ease, and now records the opinion that what he at first took to be TARTLTON, co. Lancaster, is in reality TILSTON, co. Chester.

EDITOR.]

[592] CHURCHINGS IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VIII.

The following is a curious specimen of local judicial intermeddling with the liberty of the subject. Recently we showed how the Corporation of Chester presumed to rule the Chester ladies on the very ticklish subject of the Hats and Caps it pleased them to wear out of doors. To-day we find them, poor souls, the subject of another piece of surveillance by their task masters,—an intrusion which, in these degenerate days of ours, would raise up a social rebellion about the ears of our local magistrates, did they dare to put it in force.

"In the tyme of Henry Gee, Being mayre of this Citie, the xij day of May in ye xxxij yere of King Henry ye eght.

"FOR GOING TO CHURCH CHYNGS, & EXCESSIVE & SUP'FLUOUS WAST AT THEM, TO BE LEFT.

"For asmoche as gret excesse and sup'fluose costs and charg's hath and doth dalye grou by reson of costly disses, meys and drynks, broght vnto Wemen Lying in childebed, and By them in lyke wise to the other Recompensyth at ther churhings, wherby Such a cootome is begon and Lyke to contynue that Such as be meane p'sons in substance many tymes strayne them selues to Such chargis more then Conueniently ther behaviour may well sustayne; by occasion of which voluntary expencis the be the Les able to susteyne and manteyne ther nessecary charg's. It is ordred that from hensforth ther shall be no Such diademets and wynes used to be brought to any woman at childebed, nor at churhings; nor also that no wemen except the mydwylfe shall go into the heuse w't hur that is churched. But to Bryng hur home to the dore, and so to dep'te vpon payne of fortytour of vj s. viij d. to be Leued ageynest the p'son that onith the house, and iij s. iiij d. of eu'y other p'son offending the Said ordir, as oft as Anye of thaym shalbe found giltye in the Same; p'uidd that the moders & systers, w't ye systers in Laue, of the woman so churhid may Laufully enter and go into the house w't the mydwylfe, this order or anything therin Conteyned Notwithstanding."

It would almost appear from this that the weaker sex were, in old HENRY GEE's days, addicted to enjoying life somewhat to excess, especially on those happy carnivals when their husbands would be likely to leave them pretty much to their own devices.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[593] LAWLESS CHESHIRE!

A correspondent of the Oswestry "Bye-gones" column, of March 26, in giving some instances of "Thieves' houses" in Wales, says:—Early in 1839, a Blue Book was published, containing a Report of the Commissioners for enquiring into the best means of establishing a Constabulary Force through England and Wales. Some of the stories of the ways of thieves told in this Report are curious and interesting. The Commissioners ascertained that something like 3,000 "travellers" (i.e. thieves) made provincial tours, either at stated seasons, or when London was too hot for them; and that all over the country there were "lodging houses for travellers," in every town, and almost every village. These "thieving hotels" were the flash houses of the rural district,—the receiving houses for stolen goods. The city of Chester, alone, was stated to have 150 or 200 of them, and the county generally was stated to be (with Cornwall) the very worst in the kingdom for "Wreckers;" and it was stated that on the Cheshire coast, not far from Liverpool, "They will rob those who have escaped the perils of the sea, and come safe on shore; they will mutilate dead bodies for the sake of rings and personal ornaments."

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Queries.

[594] THE LACHE BARRACKS.

Near the junction of Boundary Lane with the Kinnerton Road, at a point known as "the Lache," and distant about two miles from Chester, is situated a block of cottages, part of which, much older than the others, are in a somewhat dilapidated condition. This site is known in the locality as "Sparrow Hall," or "The Barracks." Can any of the readers of "THE SHEAF" say how this latter title has been acquired? Is it possible that during the Siege of Chester, when Sir William Brereton held Hawarden Castle, this site may have given shelter either to the troops of the Parliamentarians or Royalists?

H. L. P.

[595] GALLOWS HILL, BOUGHTON.

How long has this spot borne its not very dignified name? I know that executions have taken place there from an early period,—probably as far back as the fifteenth century, if not before. The hill at that time was open clear down to the River Dee, but in later days was allowed to be enclosed by private individuals. At what period was this mistake perpetrated?

L. L.

[596] EARLIEST MONUMENTAL BRASS IN CHESHIRE.

In *The Antiquary* for January 4, 1873, (col. 3, p. 10) MR. DUNKIN gave a list, showing the date of the earliest Monumental Brass in each English county. The oldest one known was stated to be in the church of Stoke d'Abernon in Surrey, and of the year 1277. Cambridge came the next, with the celebrated brass at Trumpington, of the year 1289. CHESHIRE is the last but one in the list, with the WILMSLOW example of 1460, LANCASHIRE being absolutely last (1493). Assuming Mr. Dunkin to be correct, can any reason be assigned why the "seed plot of gentry" should be so low down in the chronological scale with respect to its Monumental Brasses; or why the number should be comparatively so few in the county? Is there reason for believing that many were destroyed at the time of the civil wars?

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[597] OSWESTRY VOLUNTEERS AT CHESTER.

I have already given the mutual congratulations following the visit of the CHESTER VOLUNTEERS to OSWESTRY, in 1804. A few weeks after their return, the OSWESTRY Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Major Warrington, visited Chester, "on permanent duty." Did the visit lead to any municipal compliments? The Oswestrians marched for CHESTER on July 21st, 1804, and were on duty ten days.

Croeswyllan, Oswestry.

A. R.

Replies.

[598] PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR.

[Nos. 13, 41, 56.—May 1, 16, 22.]

The various notices of this old tower on Chester Walls, which have appeared in the earlier numbers of THE SHEAF, have interested me not a little. But it has surprised me at the same time, that no one has hitherto inquired through your columns whether anything like an exact copy of the inscription which once filled the entablature on the front of the Tower, is now recoverable from any source. The face of the sandstone tablet has completely perished through the action of the atmosphere, and the natural chipping of the stone; but it seems a pity if the text of the inscription should also have withered away, like the beautiful sculpture supporting it, without someone having had the wit to make a copy of it in its original state.

H. S. A.

[599]

CHESHIRE CENTENARIANS.

[No. 182, 474.—July 31, Jan. 15.]

1816. William Broughton died in March, at Neston, Cheshire, at the advanced age of 106. He was one of the veterans that fought at the battle of Culloden.

1819. John Bierd, a pensioner on Chelsea Hospital, died November 1st, in Further Northgate-street, at the patriarchal age of 104 years.

1816. Robert Littlewood died on the 23rd of April, at Norbury, Stockport, Cheshire, in his 108th year, and was buried at St. Mary's, Stockport.

1852. Thomas Welch died December 1st, at Duke-street, Stockport, aged 101.

1818. Mrs. Parr died in Liverpool, having lived in a state of widowhood 55 years, aged 103.

1817. Elizabeth Rowe was buried at Christleton, having died at Rowton, at the age of 108.

1817. Mrs. Wooley, of Plemstall, died on the 1st of June, aged 100.

1793. Rhoden. A woman of this name was buried in March, at St. John's, Chester, aged 104; she had resided the greater part of her life in an humble cot near the church.

1818. Anne Smallwood died on the 13th of October, at Handsworth, Staffordshire, in the 116th year of her age. She was the mother of 15 children, the eldest of whom then living was 80 years old.

1819. Mrs. Powell died at Montgomery, on the 25th of June, in her 103rd year, having resided in that parish the whole of her life.

1821. Edward Simon died on the 11th of November, in Newhall-street, Liverpool, aged 104 years and 22 days, having worked as a labourer in the docks near 70 years. What is remarkable is, his mother died aged 103 years and his father 104.

1824. Dolly Barclay died in the parish of Ruabon, aged 101 years. She was the mother of 14 children, had 13 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

1824. Mary Hindley, of Over, Cheshire, died Feb. 18, at the advanced age of 105.

1800. Thomas Cotton, of Liscard, at the age of 105.

1820. Mrs. Barbara Pomfret, of Lower Darwen, Blackburn, Lancashire, who was grandmother and great grandmother to nearly 300 children, died on the 6th of January, aged 102.

1820. Margaret Griffith, of Bottwnog, Carnarvonshire, in her 100th year.

1820. Elizabeth Roberts, of Croes Hoel, Denbighshire, 102 years of age.

1820. Anne Henley died in London in her 105th year. She was born in Chester in the year 1716, and completed her 104th year the 4th of March.

1821. Sarah Parker, of Ashton, near Tarvin, Cheshire, died in her 101st or 102nd year on the 3rd of May.

1821. John Maddock died on the 1st of October, at Holloway Head, near Northwich, Cheshire, at the extraordinary age of 121.

1825. Sarah Hanley died in the Union Walk, Frodsham-street, Chester, aged 101.

1878. Mrs. Beatrice Wollaston died at Shrewsbury in her 100th year, being the widow of John Wollaston, Esq., surgeon, of Ivy House, Montgomeryshire.

1879. Thomas Rowland, a Welshman, died, who had attained his 108rd year. He was born in the parish of Llangabon, and was for many years bailiff of Caerphilly. He left eight of his offspring, never having had a single death among them. Their united ages were 514 years, viz., 71, 70, 68, 66, 64, 58, and 56 years respectively.

George Harding, aged 104 years, and Jane Darlington, of Mollington, aged 84 years, had the banns of marriage read at St. Oswald's Church, Chester, for the second time on the 28th of April, 1776, the wedding to take place on the 6th May: and on Sunday, the 24th May, 1778, he was married again to Catherine Woolnoth, aged 83, at St. Bridget's Church, Chester. In regard to this last marriage there is the following short biographical notice appended:—"The Bridegroom served in the army 39 years, during the reigns of Queen Anne, George I., and George II. This is his fifth wife and Mrs. Woolnoth's fourth husband."

And in 1816 there was living at Stockport, in full possession of his faculties, an individual of the name of Palin, at the patriarchal age of 110 years.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[600] THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY IN 1798.

[No. 560.—March 12.]

In the Journal of the *Shropshire Archaeological Society*, 1878, there was a paper on "Shropshire Patriotism in 1798," in which the history of the self-imposed tax was given. A similar paper, relating to Montgomeryshire, was also given in the last volume of the papers of the *Powys-land Club*. A clause had been inserted in Pitt's Bill for augmenting the Assessed Taxes (passed December, 1721) for increasing these taxes by voluntary contributions. The nation was thus put on its mettle, and the response was extraordinary. One of the papers I have referred to says:—

"The first list advertised [in the county] is that of Montgomery [borough], and appended to it is the resolution of a vestry, which seems to express in a few words the feeling of the great mass of the people. The vestry expressed an opinion that it was desirable to have, and to publish, even the smallest sums, because a universal voluntary subscription, 'minutely published to the world, would be a substantial expression of the attachment of the great body of the people to the independence of their country; and thereby damp the ambition of the enemy, and conduce materially to the shortening of the destructive war.' Doubtless the Montgomery vestrymen were right in this, for a foreign power

must necessary be more impressed with a nation's united determination in the subscription of a voluntary tax, than it would be at a compulsory one carried by the government of a party. A national subscription, which the King headed with £200,000 out of his own private purse, exhibited a more practical patriotism, than singing 'Rule Britannia' at public meetings, and would carry its weight accordingly."

"B. Ll. V." hints that "patriotism formerly" was not "parsimony;" but since 1798 the nation has had no chance, in this practical way, of expressing its opinion. A file of the Chester papers of 1798-1804 would afford a most interesting local record of the various preparations for invasion.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. E.

[601]

THE CURFEW.

[No. 575.—March 19.]

The following are some extracts from notes made a few years since respecting the "Bells of Cheshire":—

The CURFEW BELL will be found to be rung at several of the Cheshire churches, but the time of doing so is varied, as I shall now show.

At ST. PETER'S, Chester, CHREADLE and BOSLEY, it is rung every evening, except on Sundays, at 8 o'clock; at OVER, all the year round at 8. BUNBURY, 8 in the summer and 7 in the winter, an hour earlier on Saturday nights during the summer. AUDLEM, Lady Day to Michaelmas at 9, and the remainder of the year at 8, but not on Sundays. BACKFORD, October 10th to April at 8; Sundays at 7. BOWDON, from October 17th to February 14th at 8. WRENBURY, from November 1st to March 1st at 8; Saturday and Sundays at 7. WEAVERHAM, November 5th to Candlemas at 8; Sundays at 7. ALDERLEY, November 5th to Candlemas at 8; Saturday and Sundays at 7. FRODSHAM, from November 1st to February 2nd at 8; Saturday, Sunday, and Christmas week at 7. MARRBY, November 1st to Candlemas at 8; Saturdays and eve of festivals at 7. WYBUNBURY, from Michaelmas to Lady Day at 8. TARVIN and MALPAS, from Michaelmas to Lady Day at the same hour, but Saturdays and Sundays at 7. ACTON, Michaelmas to Lady Day at 8; Saturdays at 7, but it is not rung on the Sunday. WITTON, three weeks near Christmas at 8. PRESTBURY, from October 12th to March 25th at 7, and on Sundays at 8; but on Easter Sunday and the "Wake" Sunday, being the first Sunday after July 11th, the bell is tolled for about a quarter of an hour at 9; whilst at the CATHEDRAL of CHESTER the hour all the year round is 9.

It was formerly rung in other country parishes of Cheshire, but for some reason or another has been discontinued: amongst the number is STOCKPORT, when the parish refused church rates; DODLESTON, the primary cause being the old clerk's illness; and at EASTHAM it has been silent for more than 40 years.

Ledham.

B. M.

APRIL 9, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

APRIL 9.—John Wesley preached in the Octagon Chapel, Chester	1776
„ 10.—S. Thorley executed, for murder of Ann Smith at Congleton	1777
„ 11.—William Chaderton, 5th Bishop of Chester, died Bishop of Lincoln.....	1608
„ 12.—William Nicholls installed 13th Dean of Chester	1644
„ 14.—Dr. Gastrell consecrated 19th Bishop of Chester	1714
„ 15.—Thomas Cartwright, 16th Bishop of Chester, died	1689

J. H.

Original Documents.

[602] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS, 1665-8.—No. IV.

We resume our publication of the Oulton Series of Lieutenantcy Papers on the threatened troubles of 1665-6, with the two following Affidavits touching the payment of a Trooper.

"July the 11th, 1665.

"William Abnett Swor' & Examined saith, that afore Christmas last past hee paid forty shillings to Maior Walthall that was for pay for a Soldier to stand for him, the said Wm. Abnett, for w^{ch} hee had a horse distrained of him the s^d Wm. Abnetts in the towne of Namptwich. And hee does beleive they had an Order see to doe from three of the Deputy Leive'ts of this County. And that Samuel Hussie, clerk of Maior Walthall's Company had vijd. of him this exam't for entrance money. And that hee this exam't paid his proportion of xvjd p' diem for pay towards a pikeman for 6 days. And hee does beleive that the said Sam: Hussie had of en'ie Soldier xijd a peece for entrance or Inlisting money in Maior Walthall's Company.

WILLIAM ABNETT.

"William Boote, of Church-Coppenhall, husband-man, Swor' and Examined saith, that the last muster but one hee paid ten shillings and eight pence for two Soldiers pay for 4 dayes muster by virtue of a War'tt that was Signed with Maior Walthalls name.

WILL: BOOTE,

Taken before us
P: LEICESTER
PHI: EGBERTON
BOB. COTTON
J. ARDEENT

Next in chronological sequence we have an Order to Sir Philip Egerton to muster his Troop at Northwich, in these words:—

"**FOR LIEFT' COLONELL S^R PHILLIP EGERTON.**
Orders.

"S^r,

You are hearby orderd to call ye Troop vnder your oom'and togather, soe as they may bee at Northwiche vpon Saturday, the second of September next, by twelve of ye o'clock, and to bring with them six dayes paye, wth billett and powder according to Act of Parliament on that behalfe, and there to Enquarter till further order, and to keepe good guards.

P: LEICESTER
R: BROOKE
P^r: BROOKE
THO. MARBURY
HENRY LECH

Northwich, August
the 29th, 1665.

Then follows an Order of about the same date to Sir Philip Egerton to take into custody two Colonels and two other persons, no doubt disaffected or at least suspected to be such, and to convey them to Chester Castle. The greater part of this Document, including the prisoners' names, has been eaten away; but it contains the signatures and fine heraldic seals of Sir Peter Leicester, R. Brooke, Peter Brook, &c. EDITOR.

[603] **BANGOR ISOLED.**

The following list of presentations to the Church of Bangor Isoled, copied from a document in my possession, will not be without interest to the residents in English Maylor:—

"20 April. 29 Ed. I.—A sequestration of ye Profitte of Bangor Parsonage, that of ye same ye Cure might be discharged, & mayntenance given to Will'm, son of John L'd St. John, to bring him up in study, who could not yet be fully admitted to that Church, because of his nonage.

20 April. 18 Ed. II.—The King presented as true & undoubted Patron of the Church of Bangor, one John Chyney, upon ye death of Will'm St. John, last parson there, &c.

3rd Ed. III.—Walter Bever was admitted to ye Church of Bangor upon the resignation of John Chyney. But it does not appear upon whose presentation.

27 Sept. 7 Ed. III.—Will'm de Rossal was admitted Rector of Bangor Church by ye Presentation of Eubul l'Estrange, Kn't, true Patron of that Church, being voyd by ye death of Walter Bever.

5 August. 8 Ed. III.—Roger Dowlwas was admitted at ye Presentation of Eubul Strange, Kn't, Patron of ye Church of Bangor, as Parson there; the Church being voyd by ye death of Will'm Rossal, last Incumbent there.

20 feb. 22 Ed. III.—John Wetenhall was admitted Parson of Bangor, the Church being voyd by exchange of Stretton with Dowlwas, late Parson.

21 Oct. 23 Ed. III.—The Church of Bangor being voyd by ye death of Wetenhall, last Incumbent, Hen. de Blackburn was admitted, at the Presentation of Ed. ye Black Prince, by reason he had the wardship of Roger le Strange, "un enfant, le Patron."

27 Ed. III.—The Church of Bangor being voyd by ye Resignation of Blackburn upon Exchange, Robt. de Treford was admitted thereto by ye Presentation of Roger le Strange, of Ellesmere & Knocking.

28 April. 30 Ed. 3.—The Church of Bangor being vacant by ye Resignation of Treford, James Martyn was thereunto admitted by the Presentation of Roger le Strange, Knocking.

26 April. 3 Hen. IV.—The Church of Bangor being voyd by the death of James Martyn, John Richard was admitted Parson by ye Presentation of John Kynaston the Elder, & Richard Edward, for that time Patrons.

21 August. 6 Hen. V.—By the resignation of John Strange the Parson, ye Church of Bangor became voyd, and John Leyelt was admitted by ye Presentation of Richard Le Strange, of Knocking.

17 April. 26 Hen. VI.—The Church being voyd by ye death of Howel Kyffin, last Parson, Will'm Wexton was admitted Parson of Bangor, by ye Presentation of Richard Le Strange & Elis. his wyfe.

2 June. 1 Ed. IV.—The Church of Bangor being voyd, Tho. Wateford was presented by Roger Kynaston, Esqre.

7 Decemb. 6 Ed. IV.—By the death of Tho. Wateford ye Church of Bangor being voyd, Rafe Heathcoote was admitted by ye presentation of John Le Strange.

Jan. . . . 19 Hen. VIII.—Will'm Knight was admitted Parson of Bangor by ye resignation of the former Incumbent, & at ye presentation of K. H. VIII., then Patron, by reason of the Minority of Ed. E. of Derby, then the King's Ward.

. 33 Hen. VIII.—Richd. Gerrard was admitted Parson of Bangor, by reason that Will'm Knight was made Bishop of Bath & Wells, by presentation of K. H. VIII., Patron jure Prærogative."

Worthenbury.

C. A. S. P.

[604] **RESTORATION OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL
IN 1702.**

King WILLIAM III., some little while before his death, granted a BRIEF to the Dean and Chapter of CHESTER, for a general Collection in the Parish Churches of the country towards the cost of the works then going on in our CATHEDRAL. What particular repairs or alterations were then in progress I know not; but I have met in my reading experience with several local references to this BRIEF, one or two of which I will embalm in THE SHEAF for the benefit of future explorers.

In the first volume of the Parish Registers of LLANYMYNECH, Montgomeryshire (as recorded in the *Proceedings of the Powysland Club*, Vol. XII., p. 159), I read as follows:—

"6 May, 1702. Rec'd then of Mr. Humphreys, the sum of fourteen shillings and six pence, collected in the p'r'sh of LLANYMBLODWELL, upon his late Ma'ties brief, for and towards the repaire of the CATH'ALL CHURCH OF CHESTER; and the sume of four shillings, six pence, collected upon the same brief in the p'r'sh of LLANYMYNECH. Rec'd the s'd sev'all sumes by me. DA: LLOYD."

The Register Book of Ormesby St. Margaret, co. Norfolk, records as under:—

"June 10th, 1702. Collected y'n in ye Parish of Orm'sby St. Margaret towards ye Reparation of Chester Cathedral, £0 2s. 2d."

It would be interesting to know, could we hope to do so at this distance of time, what particular disfigurement of the ancient architecture of the Cathedral was, at the period indicated, in progress. Newspapers had then, though, no existence in CHESTER; and there is but little chance, I fear, that any information on this subject will ever be now recovered. G. T.

[605] IRISH LETTERS *via* PARKGATE.

Several instances have been recorded in *THE SHEAF* of soldiers passing through Chester on various occasions to Ireland, *via* Parkgate; and correspondents also have given the names of vessels trading between that little Packet Station and Ireland; but no instance has been named of letters being received from Ireland *via* Parkgate.

The late Mr. William Palin, whose father was Postmaster of Chester from 1771 to 1815, informed me that the letters were sent from Ireland, as opportunities presented themselves, in vessels to Parkgate; from whence they were forwarded to Chester in post-chaises, to be sorted and sent forward to their several addresses.

The letters thus received were not charged with postage; hence the Postmaster and his then one clerk had to tax each letter with its proper amount of postage. As the letters arrived as often in the night as the day, it may be easily imagined it was no pleasing duty to be called up in the small hours of the night to charge these letters with postage, by the aid of penny tallow candles, gaslight not then being in existence.

Some of the Liverpool merchants who traded with Ireland were in the habit of coming to Chester when they heard of letters having arrived at Parkgate, and were accommodated with those addressed to them, whereby much delay was prevented in their receipt.

E. O.

[606] THE OLD CITY GAOL.

I offer for acceptance the following interesting episode in Chester history connected with the City Gaol, now being taken down:—

Mr. JOHNSON ROBERTS informs me that on the day on which Clare was executed at BOUGHTON, on the gallows then erected on the site of the residence of the late Alderman Morris, two other malefactors were led to execution along with him. The time then for executions was 12 o'clock. On reaching the gallows, Clare escaped as stated in the account recently given in one of the Chester papers, and was drowned in the River Dee; and the execution was delayed until the body was dragged out of the river, when it was at once fastened to the gallows, and all three swung at the same time. About 3.30, Mr. Roberts was standing at the window of his father's office in Pepper-street, and saw the cart with the three dead bodies driven past St. MICHAEL'S Church, attended by a large and noisy crowd. At that time the footpath by the church led by an inclined plane up into the Bridge-street Row, and to the level of the west door of the church. Mr. Roberts saw the cart, with one wheel on the above incline and the other wheel in the street, driven by a drunken driver, until it upset, and the bodies of the three felons fell out into the street. With some difficulty, owing to the pressure of the crowd, the cart was replaced in position, the bodies were hustled into it anyhow, and the noisy mob continued its course to the Gaol, where the grave shortly afterwards closed upon the disgraceful scene.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

Queries.

[607] STOAK AND STANNEY.

"In STOAK, there are but few good folk,
In STANNEY, hardly any."

Can any of your readers inform me where these old CHESHIRE RHYMES come from?

Newton.

H.

[608] THE ANCIENT BRITISH CHURCH.

I remember, when quite a youngster, reading a very interesting work in, I think, three volumes, entitled *Tales of the Ancient British Church*, the author being the Rev. B. W. Evans, at that time Vicar of Tarvin, in this county. Was this gentleman a native of Cheshire, and if so, what is known of his parentage and family, and where was he buried?

L. L.

Replies.

[609] WILLIAM LAWES.

[No. 572.—March 17.]

A few additional particulars respecting this Chester Siege worthy may not be uninteresting to the readers of *THE SHEAF*.

He was a member of a very musical family, his father being a vicar-choral of Salisbury Cathedral. His brother, Henry Lawes, was one of the most eminent composers of his day, and was immortalised by Milton—for whose "Comus" he composed the music performed at Ludlow Castle, in 1634—in a sonnet addressed to him, and commencing :—

"Harry, whose tuneful and well-measured song
First taught our English music how to span
Words with just note and accent."

The brothers were educated under the same musician—John Cooper, who Italianised his name as Giovanni Coperario—and both held appointments as Gentlemen of the Chapel-Royal. As Henry was appointed in 1625, it is probable that William became one of the Gentlemen about the same time. The date 1602, as given by your correspondent, Mr. E. Wilbraham Jones, is evidently erroneous.

William Lawes composed many instrumental and vocal pieces, including part songs, rounds, &c. One anthem of his, stated to have put him "on a level with most of the Church composers of his time," is probably the one in the Temple Church Collection. But his chief work was "A collection of Psalms for three voices, set to the well-known paraphrase by Sandys." This latter is twice mentioned by Samuel Pepys in his celebrated Diary :—

"Nov. 7, 1660. 'After all this he (Lord Sandwich) called for the fiddles and books, and we two and W. Howe, and Mr. Childe, did sing and play some psalms of Will Lawes.'"

"December 14, 1662. 'We sang some psalms of Mr. Lawes.'"

During the civil wars William entered the Royalist army, and had "the rank of captain"; but with a view to his personal safety, Lord Gerard made him a commissary; he was, however, killed at the siege of Chester in 1645. His brother Henry resumed his place in the Chapel Royal at the Restoration, and composed the Coronation Anthem for Charles II. He died in 1669, and was interred in Westminster Abbey.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[610] THE BOUNDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 526, 582.—Feb. 19, March 26.]

Referring to the paper in THE SHEAF on the boundaries of the city, I have found a conveyance of a field called the Wetelegh Field, dated 35th Edward I., 1307, from William del Bache, chaplain, to William de Doncaster, citizen of Chester, and Felicia his wife, to which the following names, *Robert de Bradford's* being one of them, were witnesses :—

"William Trussell, Justiciary of Chester.
John de Ardene }
John de Orreby } Milites.
Robert de Pulford }

Hugh de Bruchell, Mayor of Chester.
William de Bruchell, Clerk.
Richard Candelan, Sheriff of Chester.
Alexander Harel
Robert de Macclesfield
Robert de Bradford
Richard Russell
Henry de Blakerode
Gilbert Dunfoull."

P. M. GREY-EGERTON.

Oulton Park, Tarporley.

[611]

MALPAS SYCAMORES.

[No. 573.—March 17.]

I have been away from home, and missed for a time your impression of last week. This must be my excuse for not having sooner replied to the recent query of "A WOODMAN."

I have never as yet been able to ascertain as a *fact* who it was that planted the beautiful SYCAMORES on my glebe. But my *impression* is that they would be planted by BISHOP HEBER's father, who was Rector of Malpas. I am not woodman enough to judge from the size of the trees as to their age, but I am told by those who understand the craft that my supposition would point to the right date. A layman in the matter would suppose that the trees were older. Mr. Heber (or, more exactly it is said, Mrs. Heber) built the present house, and apparently laid out the grounds in something of their present condition. She was evidently a very "managing" person, as she turned the key of the rectory for £1,100. I am disposed to give her also the credit of the SYCAMORES. This would date them to the middle of the last century. I should be glad to correspond with *A Woodman* on the subject privately, if he will kindly send me his name and address, as I may perhaps be able to say more on the subject when I return home. Enough has probably been said for the general readers of THE SHEAF.

W. T. KENYON.

[612]

THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.

[No. 588.—March 26.]

In consequence of an article in THE SHEAF of last week denying that the late THOMAS HARRISON was an eminent architect, I beg leave to quote from *Hemingway* the following :—"This celebrated architect was not a native of Chester, yet his long residence here, and the numerous monuments to his fame which the city exhibits, entitle him to particular notice. He was born at Richmond, in Yorkshire, in the year 1744, and went to Rome, under the patronage of Lord Dundas, about 1769. He remained there several years, and before he left, for the services he rendered was presented by Pope Ganganelli, with a gold and silver medal. He returned to England in 1776, and built a bridge over the Lune, the first level bridge in this country; and also the works of the Castle in Lancaster, in the same

county; and afterwards rebuilt the Gaol and County Courts at Chester, all of which are of the Grecian style, and noticed by the celebrated M. Dupin. The next was the New Bridge across the Dee, of one arch of 200 feet span. A deputation from the City of London appointed him to visit the principal gaols of England for the purpose of improving those of the metropolis." It was then mentioned, "When the modest genius of a 'Harrison' shall be brought into fuller display, England will have to boast of a native architect which the brightest age of Greece would glory to acknowledge."

Mr. HARRISON also restored the Elgin marbles. He erected a Greek Doric column at Shrewsbury in honour of Lord Hill, and one for the Marquis of Anglesea in the Menai Straits, and a triumphal arch at Holyhead, St. Nicholas' Church Tower and the Lyceum at Liverpool, the Theatre and Exchange Buildings at Manchester, besides Broom Hall in Fifeshire, the seat of Lord Elgin, and he designed houses for many other nobles in Scotland." In Chester he designed the Commercial News Room, the "Northgate," the present south front of St. Oswald's Parish Church, Mr. Potts' house in Watergate-street, and several others. He never professed Gothic architecture, having a distinct preference for the classical over all others. Now, as for the church at Whittington, the Rev. Canon Walsham How could give an account of that. With regard to the Jubilee Column it was a mere local affair: the Grammar School boys at Ruthin subscribed to it, and there were not sufficient funds to do it properly, but it was built of limestone instead of Scotch granite.

VERITAS.

APRIL 16, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

APRIL 16.—Ferdinando, 5th Earl of Derby, died	1594
" 20.—First sod of new channel of River Dee cut by R. Manley, Esq.	1733
" 21.—Hugh Grylle, 8th Abbot of Chester, died	1226
" 22.—Griffith and Wood executed at Chester for burglary	1815
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[613] MENDICANCY AT CHESTER IN 1539.

Harsh as in many ways the present Poor Law undoubtedly are, and harshly as they may occasionally be administered, the child of poverty, but especially the mere mendicant, of Henry the Eighth's day would, I suspect, gladly have exchanged places with his modern representative.

The Order set forth below was not without redeeming features; for its provisions, if properly carried out, at least made it impossible for indiscriminate alms-giving, under the wrong name of charity, to create and foster the mere lazy and dissolute characters of whom the present *regime* encourages only too many. Under this Order, the poor of the city were apportioned within well-defined limits; and as every pauper would thus be well known, nay more, be neighbour to those among whom alone he or she was permitted to beg, such charity as was then dispensed would be done almost as *en famille*; and a good look-out by the alderman and constable of the Ward formed an excellent check to serious imposition. Let us now see how it was managed by the Corporation of Chester.

"Tempore Henrici Gee, maioris civitatis cestr'
Anno E'E's Henrici Octavi xxxjmo."

AN ORDER ABOUT IDLE BEGARS, AND OTHER POORE OF YE CITY.

"For asmooche as by Reasons of the greates number and multitude of valiant idell p'sons and vacabounds w'ch be stronge and able to s'ue and Labor for ther lininge, and yett dalye go on beggyng w'tin the same Citie, so that the pore impotent and indegent people inhabitinge w'tin the Same citie, and haning no other means to get ther lyuynge, but onely by the charytable Allmys of good Cristen people, dalye want & be destitute of the Same to the greates displeasure of almyghtye god, and contrarye to good coneyence and the houlsome statute and Laues of our Soueraigne Lorde the Kinge, In Suche case made and providid. ffor Reformacyon wherof it is ordenyd and established by the Said mayre wythe the th'aldermen and Com'on counsell of the Saide Citie the xxth day and yere abovesaide,

Th't the number and names of all indegent and nedye mendicais People shalbe serched, knoune and Wrytten, and therupon into dyuydit in xv' p'ts, and eu'y of them Assigned to and what Warde they shall Becorte and bege w'tin the Saide citie, and in no other place w'tin the same. And ther names to be Wrytten in A byll sett upp in euery mans house w'tin eu'y Ward for knowlege to whome they shall geue ther allmys, and to no other.

And If anye other p'son or p'sons coom to anye man or woman's dore, house, or p'son to begge, not haning his name in the byll w'tin that mans or womans houses, then the same man or woman to geue unto the same begger no maner Allmys or Reliefe, but Rayther to bringe or sende him to the Stockes w'tin the Same Warde, or els to delyne' him to the constable of the Same Warde, and he to put him in the stockes, ther to Remayne by the Space of a day and A nyght; and if euerye man and Woman that shall offende in using themselves contrarye to this ordynance concerninge Such valiant beggers, shall for eu'ye suche offence foryt xij'd to be leuyed to the vse of the com'on box, by the comandymnt of thalderman of the Same Warde, And for default of payment therof, the same man or woma' so offendinge to be commytted to the Ward by the mayre tyll it be payde.

And yf eney of the Ind'geint and pore nedee begg's at anye tyme do begge in any other place w'tin this Citie, out of the Ward to them assigned as is aforesaid, then the same beger so offendinge to by ponyshed by the mayres discreacyon.

And further yt is orderyd, that all man' of Idle p'sons, being able to labour, abydinge w'tin the saide citie, and not admyttyd to lyue by allmys w'tin the same Citie, shall eu'y work day in the morning, in the tyme of Wynter at vj of the clocke, and in tyme of Somer at iiii of the clocke, Resorte and com' unto the high Crosse of the saide Citie, and ther to offer them Selues to be hyrred to Labour for ther Lying accordinge to the Kinge's laues and his statut's p'uidd for laborers; and If anye p'son or p'sons do refuse so to do, then he or they so Refusinge to be com'ytted to Warde by the mayre of the Saide Citie for the tyme beinge, ther to Remyne Unto Sucho tyme he or they so Refusinge hathe founde Suffyocent suerties to be Bounden by Recognisance before the Saide Maire, In a certene Sume so to do accordinge to the Kynges Laues and statutes Aforesaide."

The Stocks set up in every Ward must have been a terrible bugbear to the tramp and common mendicant, especially those arriving here from afar. Twenty-four hours (a whole day and a night) sitting on the stool of repentance was a very complete way of dealing with professional beggars, and of improving some of them off the earth altogether,—a process that would scarcely perhaps be tolerated now.

Then again, that parading of them at the High Cross at four o'clock in the morning in summer and six in winter, to wait there patiently for hirers, points to a greater degree of hardihood, and to earlier habits of rising, than are or seem likely to be, common in our day. The whole Order indeed belongs to an age and a state of society and civilisation long since passed away.

T. HUGHES.

[614] THE ROUNDHEADS AND THE PLAGUE IN 1666.

The following Document, culled from the Oulton Park series, is unfortunately without date; but from the circumstances referred to in it—the threatened rising of the Roundheads, the war as we presume with the Dutch, and the concourant visitation of the Plague—it would seem to have been written somewhere towards the middle of the year 1665. Though addressed to Earl Derby as Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, it no doubt equally applied to Cheshire, of which county he was also Lieutenant.

"For our trusty & right well-beloved Cousin & Councillor, Charles Earle of Derby, Ld. Lieut. of our County of Lancaster,

And in his absence to his Deputy Lieuts. of that County.

CHARLES E.

Right trusty, and well-beloved Cousin, & trusty and well-beloved, wee greet you well. Though it might have been reasonably expected on such a con-

juncture as this, of warr abroad & a spreading contagion at home, while wee imploy our armes & our treasure in defence of our trade, navigation, & honour, & Allmightie God is pleased to visit us w'th soe great sicknesse & mortalitie, that all people of this kingdome, of how different persuasions soever, should be awakened into a more than ordinary care of their minds, & hold themselves oblig'd by all the bonds of conscience, & duty, rather to stifle & quench that restless spirit of faction and rebell'on than sow new seeds of tumult & disorder, taking advantage from our pr'sent engagem't in the calamitie that threatens so much ruine & destruction. Yet since wee receive daily Informac'on from all parts both of County & City that the implacable malice of our enemies at home, is now more than ever active to involve us againe in confusio & blood against all the methods of our mercy & clemency, as well as God's manifold dispensations towards us, & his heavy judgments w'ch hang soe terrible over our heads.

Wee think it therefore necessary at this time to require your particular & extraordinary care & watchfullness over the persons, actions, meetings, & confederacies of all such in that County who, by their former practices & pr'sent seditious temper, shall give you just ground of suspition: causing those among them of more speciall note to be imprisoned, & others to give security for their good & peaceable demeanure; and upon any beginning or jealousy of stirre & com'moc'on, that you draw the volunteer troupes, or such part of the Militia together as may be least burthensome . . . people during their harvest; and by all means whatsoever that you pr'serve the peace, & . . . and advertise us from time to time . . . brother the Duke of Yorke . . . the north of all things, and accidents which may conduce or be contrary thereto, & wee bid you farewell.

Given at our Court at [Oxford?]

By his Ma'ties com'and,

Lord of Derby, L'd Lieut.
of Lancaster.

ARLINGTON.

His Ma'tie does further recom'end that particular care be taken that the Captaines and other officers of your Militia be ready when they shall be called upon to doe their office, and provided w'th powder, match & bulletts.

ARLINGTON.

From the reference, towards the end of Lord Arlington's despatch, to the approaching harvest, we may fairly date the letter as about August, 1665.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[615] THE CONVEYANCE OF LETTERS BY POST.

The first account we have of posts being used in England is in the reign of King John, when payments were made to Nuncio for the conveyance of summonses

to his Barons to all quarters of the kingdom, and the issue of letters and writs to his Sheriffs. In 1481, Edward IV., during the Scottish war, established certain posts twenty miles apart.

In 1581, Thomas Randolph is mentioned as the Chief Postmaster of England, and we find other persons subsequently named to that office.

In 1635, a proclamation was made "for settling the Letter Office of England and Scotland," and commands "Thomas Witherings, Esq., His Majesty's Postmaster of England, to settle a running post or two, to run night and day, between Edinburgh and London; to go thither and back in 6 days." Similar arrangements were also to be made between "London and Dublin through WEST-CHESTER and Holyhead." All postmasters were commanded to have ready in their stables one or two horses, the rate to be paid for the same per mile to be 2½d. for one, and 5d. for two, horses.

A resolution in the House of Commons in 1649 declared "that the office of Postmaster is, or ought to be, in the sole power and disposal of Parliament;" and the reason given for this resolution was, that "it would be the best means to discover and prevent many dangerous and wicked designs against the Government."

Since the year 1656 a great number of Acts of Parliament were passed for the due ordering, &c., of the Post Office, including one in the first year of the reign of Her present Majesty, when 99 of the older Acts were repealed.

E. O.

[616] VISIT TO THE REV. JOHN WATSON, M.A.,
F.S.A., OF STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE, IN 1780.

In the year 1780 the industrious Manchester antiquary, Mr. THOMAS BARRETT, paid a visit to the Rev. JOHN WATSON, the historian of Halifax and of the Warren family, at his Rectory of STOCKPORT, a benefice which Watson held from 1769 till his death in 1783. In early life Watson had been in charge of a cure at RUNCORN. The account of the visit, which occurred when the worthy Rector was in the full enjoyment of his literary honours, is in many respects pleasing. It was set down by Barrett himself, and it was copied from his MSS. by the late Rev. Mr. Piccope. Some particulars of Watson's celebrated "Memoirs of the Ancient Earls of Warren and Surrey," which especially attracted Barrett's attention, are to be found in *The Herald and Genealogist* for 1871; and for Watson generally, see Mr. Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. i. 397; and *The Register of Manchester School* (Chet. Soc.) i., 12 seq. The presence of the Watson arms in Eccles Church is due to the fact that at the time when Watson attended school at Eccles and Manchester, his father, called a yeoman, was a resident at Swinton, near Eccles.

"Being in the month of June, 1780, invited by the learned and judicious Antiquary, the Rev. J. Watson, Rector of Stockport, to dine with him at his house and take a view of his valuable and choice Collections, I was introduced by him to his Library for

the inspection of its contents; which consisted of a vast quantity and great variety of well-chosen Books, and numbers of them very antient, rare Manuscripts, choice and valuable Prints, fine Drawings, Coins, Medals, and other matters. Amongst the books I saw his new and extraordinary Pedigree of Sir George Warren: it consists of 2 volumes [a limited impression of which had been published in 1776 and 1779]. Five or six of these Pedigrees have been printed and not to be sold, which in time will make this work as scarce and valuable as perhaps any ever was in this Kingdom; and that the curious may form some idea of the Work, the following brief account may in some measure be agreeable:—

"Sir George's Pedigree is traced out before the Norman Conquest, and William Earl Warren in the Conqueror's time was one of his Ancestors; and, what adds a lustre to this Family, his present Majesty King George the Third and himself are both sprung from one common Ancestor. [Plate, vol. ii. p. 161, Ed. 1782.] During the course of the Work is inserted the arms of the Families they have married, together with Cuts of Antient Castles and Seats once owned by the Warrens, several antient Portraits, particularly [vol. i. p. 8] the famous William Earl Warren above-mentioned, clad in Mail Armour, with his surcoat of arms in chequy or and azure, and a long two-handed sword laid upon his shoulder; on his head is a close round Helmet with a small Apron of Mail to secure the mouth, chin and neck; and spurs upon his heels. In this work are to be seen several old Deeds relative to the Family exquisitely imitated and copied from originals. A Head of the Author, Mr. Watson, and a most striking likeness, is at the beginning of this Book. The initial letters at the beginning of each particular discourse are ornamented with some pretty device, such as winged Boys, Boys bestriding Serpents flying with Scrolls, riding Eagles, &c. The work was printed at Warrington, the plates engraved in London, and bound under the Author's Inspection in the Palace at London by her present Majesty's bookbinder; and to the honour of the worthy Author he hath spared neither cost nor labour to make this Book curious, entertaining and valuable.

"He obliged me with a sight of *Wicliffe's Psalm Book*, which is an illuminated Manuscript in old English upon Vellum; several manuscripts of Arms, particularly one painted and gilt upon vellum, bound in crimson Velvet, and one made a present of from . . . Herald at Arms to Queen Elizabeth; several new Manuscripts of his own writing relative to Antiquity. I likewise saw Books of the first Type and Printing, and Works of old English Authors, such as Robert of Gloucester, Fabian, Wynkin de Worde, Leland, Harding, Stow, and many others. His collection of Prints is large and fine—whole Folios of heads and portraits, antient and modern, with many capital drawings in chalks of Academy Figures, and other drawings of Landscapes and miscellaneous pieces, with some of Pen, these the performance of Vandyke, Kneller, Rembrandt, and other great Masters.

"I was well pleased with a Folio Collection of large Prints from capital Paintings at Rome embossed from wood, Prints with a bold relief and printed with brown Ink, the performance of one Jackson, an Englishman resident at Rome, the only one in the world that ever attempted this sort of work; and he not discovering the Art to any one, the Secret and himself both died together.

"Here likewise is a copy of the famous Magna Charta, the same size and letter as the original, with the arms of the Barons affixed to it, who rose in arms and caused King John to sign the Deed.

"Numbers of other exact copies of antient deeds, charters and hand writings of the Kings and Queens of this realm, and Prints engraved from old seals of Kings, Nobility and Gentry of these kingdoms.

"The Coins and Medals, antient and modern, of Emperors, Kings, Queens, and States, are from every part of the known world where money is used. He is in possession of a most rare piece of gold coin of Cunobeline, a British King, together with many others, very valuable, Roman and English. I saw two Celts, but something different from mine, his being solid with a shank to fix in the handle.

"I spent near a day with the above learned and worthy Gentleman, turning over volume after volume, and he all the while so obliging as to hand me down any book I desired, and appeared well pleased in gratifying my curiosity in every part of this favourite Study.

"The Life of PRESIDENT BRADSHAW he has now by him in Manuscript, his own work; likewise the Life of COLONEL BIRCH, Th nights on Fairies, Antient accounts of ECCLES Parish, &c., &c. &c.

BARRETT then gives a drawing of Watson's arms thus: *Argent*, on a chevron engrailed *azure* between three martlets *sable*, three crescents *or*. Crest, a gryphon's head erased *arg.*, on the neck two chevrons *gules* holding in its mouth a sprig *vert* with flowers *gules*. He adds: "The above arms are up in Eccles Church, Lancashire. Of this family is the Rev. JOHN WATSON, Rector of Stockport, Cheshire, a learned and judicious antiquary, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, author of several Tracts on Antiquity and Heraldry; and my particular good friend. Hath now living one son John, and one daughter.—1780."

WATSON'S MS. works, as enumerated by Barrett, are probably to be found in the Watson MSS., a large portion of which of late years has been acquired by the Bodleian Library, Oxford. BRADSHAW'S life would probably be based upon the family papers of the Bradshaws of Marple, adjoining Stockport parish, which are quoted in the Warren History. There is a good account of Col. Birch, the Parliamentary captain, in Newcome's *Diary* (Chetham Society) pp. 203, seq.; and the Camden Society has recently (1873) published the Military Memoir of the Colonel, written by his Secretary, Roe. The *Thoughts on Fairies* ought to have some delightful matter on the folk-lore of the three Northern Counties

with which Watson was connected. The accounts of Eccles would probably add much to our existing knowledge of that antient parish.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[617] THE FIGHTING TWENTY-FOURTH.

This highly distinguished, but ill-starred Regiment, recently almost immolated at Isandula, was thirty-six years ago commanded by a soldier closely allied by birth and family with our old county palatine and the neighbouring county of Denbigh.

I have before me as I write a 'patter' ballad of the true old-fashioned type, neither distinguished for correctness of rhyme or rhythm, nor for elegance of composition; but which, omitting only two or three immaterial verses, I venture to ask insertion of in *THE SHEAF*. It may serve to remind a gallant general, still happily living amongst us, of a little incident in his military experience perhaps forgotten by him; and it may at the present time interest not only your local readers, but also many friends of the brave but unlucky Regiment which has so recently covered itself with imperishable glory. It is entitled

THE GRAND REVIEW.

The eighteenth day of April, eighteen hundred forty-three,
The sight on Glasgow green that day right handsome was to see;
The people there, who came in crowds, were dressed both neat
and clean

To see the Gallant 24th review'd on Glasgow green,
Twas after one o'clock before they left the barracks gate;
The bonny lasses, there to get a sight of them, did wait,
When marching down the Gallowgat their colours seemed
quite new,

The Band did play "Come march away," and see the Grand
Review.

The Honourable COLONEL TOWNSHEND on a warlike steed
In front of his fine Regiment on that day did proceed;
Appearing like to Blucher on the plains of Waterloo,
As he rode before his gallant corps to Glasgow Grand Review
When this Regiment in a line were formed up on the green,
Some of the Lancers and Dragoons busy employ'd had been
A galloping from right to left, and had enough to do,
In keeping back the crowd that came to see the Grand Review.
When COLONEL FLEMING did appear, he was put to a stand
To see the bold undaunted corps that he did once command.
He was well pleased at the grand manoeuvres they went through—
The 24th got great applause at Glasgow Grand Review.

This gallant corps they suffered sore on Egypt's burning sand;
When that brave General Abercrombie he had the command,
They did defeat the French that were commanded by Menou,
The "*Sphinx*" that day they did display at Glasgow Grand
Review.

Our Queen Victoria may be proud that she has such a corps,
From British owned America they lately have come o'er;
When in the field of battle to her cause they did stand true—
Were she but here, it would her cheer to see the Grand Review.

The Col. TOWNSHEND of this Ballad was, I believe, our old neighbour, General HENRY D. TOWNSHEND, of Trevalyn, in Gresford, who was gazetted lieutenant-colonel of the 24th Regiment on the 17th August, 1841. The title "Honourable" prefixed to his name is of course only a complimentary affix on the part of the rhymester.

T. UPTON.

Queries.

[618] RICHARD BIRCHES, A CHESHIRE RECTOR.

In the reign of Henry VIII., there was a clergyman of this name beneficed somewhere in Cheshire. I should like to be informed where. The family seems to have frequently supplied sons to the church,—one or two were associated with the earlier history of Chester Cathedral.

Y. O. M.

[619] A CHESHIRE MASTER OF THE MINT.

Is there any published record, from which I can learn who was Warden or Master of the Mint towards the latter part of the 15th century? I have reason to believe, from a memorandum which recently came before me, that he was a Cheshire man. It would be interesting in that case to give some particulars of him in THE SHEAF.

H. S. A.

Replies.

[620] THE MILK STOUPS, CHESTER.

[Nos. 522, 557, 565.—Feb. 18, March 12, *dis.*]

For the meaning of this word *stoup*, I have referred to Halliwell's *Archaic Dictionary*, and find that in Lincolnshire and the North a *stoup* is a "short stout post driven into the ground," and is so referred to by the antiquary Stowe.

Such posts were at one time common as boundary marks, or as mere ornaments in front of the city mansions of our gentry and substantial householders. I have, therefore, little doubt that the MILK STOUPS at Chester were so named from the "short stout posts" placed there by the market authorities for the milk-sellers to rest their pails or cans upon.

But the term was also applied to the vessels themselves; for in *Twelfth Night* (Act 2, sc. iii.) Shakespeare makes Sir Toby call out, "Marian, I say, a stoup of wine!" and in *Hamlet* (Act 5, sc. ii.) the King commands an attendant to "Set me the stoups of wine upon the table," and in so: i. of the same Act, the first clown says, "Fetch me a stoup of liquor." The word in both senses is, I believe, still occasionally used in the north.

G. T.

[621] AITCHES.

[Nos. 501, 533, 556.—Feb. 5, 18, March 5]

A learned friend of mine has called my attention to a passage in "Much ado about Nothing," Act iii, Sc. iv. which in his opinion bears on the controversy above.

"Beatrice says: 'By my troth, I am exceedingly ill: hey ho!'" Margaret replies: "For a hawk, a

horse, or a husband?" Beatrice answers: "For the letter that begins them all—H." A little further on, Beatrice insists: "I am sick." Margaret recommends *Carduus Benedictus* applied externally to the "heart: it is the only thing (she says) for a *quailm*."

It follows, I think, from this that the ecstatic derivation is the true one. *Palmarum ferat H.K.*

Malpas Rectory.

W. T. K.

APRIL 23, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

APRIL 23.—St. George's Race first run at Chester	1600
„ 24.—Simon de Albo Monasterio elected 13th Abbot of Chester	1299
„ 25.—Edward II. born, 8rd Royal Earl of Chester, at Carnarvon	1284
„ 26.—Richard, 1st Abbot of Chester, died...	1117
„ 27.—William Geaton condemned for the murder of James Findlove	1793
„ 28.—Mary Heald, of Meretown, executed at Boughton for the murder of her husband	1763
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[622] ST. GEORGE'S DAY AT CHESTER.

Amongst the days of festival and holiday keeping in the 16th and 17th centuries,—while New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, and Christmas Day, were regarded as religious fasts or feasts, ST. GEORGE'S DAY, on the contrary, with Shrove Tuesday, May Day, and Midsummer Day were treated as days of carnival and recreation, when any reasonable enjoyment might be freely indulged in, without fear or hindrance from the authorities or the church.

At CHESTER, the citizens generally made a public holiday of ST. GEORGE'S DAY, and they did it in a very deliberate and practical way. In the 16th century, probably before the year 1550, common custom, smiled at least kindly upon by the local authorities, had established upon the ROODRYE a series of annual contests or races by men and boys, and occasionally with horses, the prizes contended for being bells, cups, or gleeves of silver.

In 1609, in the active mayoralty of William Leycester, it appears from a curious old MS. Annuary of Local Events in my collection, that

"Mr. Robert Amerye, Iremonger, caused a Shoe [show] to be made at the High Crosse before the

Major, by young ympes, who made eich one of them a Speech in honour of St. George; and after, a Horse Race one the Rode Eye, and a Run'inge at the ring, with other sports comendable."

The Corporation and the several Trade Guilds of the city each contributed their annual quota to the fund for ST. GEORGE'S RACE, which in time became a grand annual event, and no doubt gave the first stimulus to the establishment of our May Meeting at Chester, still the great sporting festival of this side of England.

Under date 1612, the same old chronicle proceeds to tell us that

"Mr. Roberts Amerye, Iremonger, who had bene Sheriffe in the Mayoraltye of Mr. William Gamull, merchant, in the year 1608, Alsoe he beinge the onely man w'ch first caused the Horse Races to be runne upon the Roode Dee upon St. George's Daye, and the Run'inge of the Ringe, &c., &c., the sayd Mr. Amerye dyed the 25 September, 1612, and was buried at St. Brydes Chnrch."

This question will be found treated more at large in a Note in this day's SHEAF. At some period or other after 1631, owing to a disagreement with one of the City Sheriffs, who had the annual direction of the ST. GEORGE'S RACE, the contest was removed from the Roodeye at Chester, and transferred to the meadow flats below FARNDON, where it long continued to attract a large company of the Cestrians and of the aristocracy of the county. The Crier or Bellman of the city received 2s. 6d. annually from the corporate funds "for proclaiming St. George's Race at Farndon," and he was also the official Starter of the Race itself.

On April 23, 1706, the Minutes of the Company of CAPPERS, PINNERS, WIRE DRAWERS, and LINEN DRAPEES, at CHESTER, record that

"Whereas for some time past we have Given Money to the Mayor for his time, being towards Several Plates to be runn for at the Roody, Butt finding our Selves Agrieved, It is therefore Concl'uded and fully Agreed, That henceforward there shall not any Money be Given towards any Plate whatsoever.

ROBT SPARKE, Ald'n.

EDWARD HINCKES, } Stewards.
THO: GERRARD, }

Signed also by nine other Members of the Company."

The Brethren seem after two years to have relented, for I find them on

"March 18, 1708-9, at Widow Crichleys at ye Ship in fore Northgate Street, about giving money to ST. GEORGE'S PLATE. Voted, yeas 7, noes 4."

And in the Stewards' Accounts for the same day,

"Spent at ye Ship in Ffurnorg'te St., ab't gi. ing
Mony to St. George's Plate 00: 04: 05
More, given to ye Plate..... 00: 05: 00

Then, five years later, comes the following Order of the Company upon the same subject, and with this I will close my present notice of ST. GEORGE'S DAY:—

"1713. February 22.

Whereas the R't Worshipfull the Mayor and the Aldermen and Common Councell of this City, in

Com'on Councell assembled on Fryday the nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord 1713. were pleased to order that it should be Recommended by the Mayor and Justices of the Peace of this City to the severall incorporated Companies in this City, that they will oblige themselves under their common seal to contribute such yearly summes towards a peice of Plate to be Run for on the Roodee on St. Georges Day yearly for Ever, unless the same happen to be Saturday or Sunday, and then on Monday following, as Mr. Mayor and the s'd Justices of the Peace or any five of them shall think reasonable, not being less than they have usually contributed for the greatest part of twenty years last past; and that upon their doing soe, then the Mayor and Citizens of the s'd City would oblige themselves by their common seal to pay ten pounds per Annu' out of the Treasury of the said City towards the said Plate yearly for Ever. Now upon consideration thereof, it is hereby Ordered by the said Aldermen, Stewards and Company of Cappars, Pinner, Wierdrawers, and Linnen drapers in the said City, that they and their successors, in consideration of the premises, shall and will pay, and allow to the Treasurer of the said City for the time being the sume of Ten shillings yearly and every year for Ever; the same to bee paid in the Inner Pentice of the said City, the first Saturday in the month of Aprill yearly and every year for Ever, and to be applied towards a peice of Plate to bee run for on the Roodee on St. George's Day yearly for Ever, according to Antient Custom; unless it be on Saturday or Sunday, and then to be Run for on Monday following; and it is further Ordered that the Aldermen and Stewards of the said Company shall put the com'on seal of the said Company (or such seal as they shall think fit to be used as the common seal of the said Company) to such Instrument as shall be reasonably devised, to wiah the Mayor and Citizens of the said City shall be party; for obliging the said Aldermen, Stewards and Company and their Successors for Ever to contribute the said yearly sum of Ten Shillings towards the said Plate to be Run for on the Roodee yearly for Ever as aforesaid, the Mayor and Citizens of the said City contributing the said yearly sum of Ten Pounds thereunto as afores'd."

"Ever is a long day!" as the history of this undertaking proves. Within the compass of a life-time the ST. GEORGE'S PLATE, under that name had ceased to form part of the programme at CHESTER RACES, and the charge had disappeared from the Books of the LINENDRAPERS' COMPANY. T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[623]

ST. GEORGE'S RACE.

This being ST. GEORGE'S DAY, it seems an appropriate time to record in THE SHEAF a curious custom established, or rather confirmed, by authority in Chester exactly 270 years ago. The account I now send has, I

am aware, been more than once printed, but probably never with such a prospect of being permanently remembered as now, should you accord it admission to **THE CHESHIRE SHEAF** :—

"In A.D. 1609, Mr. William Lester, mercer, beinge mayor of Chester, one Mr. Robert Amerye, ironmonger, sometime sherife of Chester (A.D. 1608), he, with the assent of the mayor and citty, at his own coste chiefly, as I conceive chiefly, caused three silver cupps of good value to be made, the which saide silver cupps were, upon St. George's daye, for ever to be thus disposed; all gentlemen that would bringe their horses to the Rood-dee that daye, and there run, that horse which with spede did over-rune thereste, should have the beste cuppe there presently delivered; and that horse which came seconde, next the firste, before the reste, had the seconde cuppe, there also delivered; and for the thirde cuppe, it was to be run for at the ringe, by any gentleman that would run for the same, upon the said Rood-dee, and upon St. George's daye; being thus decreed, that every horse putt in soe much monie as made the value of the cupps or bells, and had the money; which horses did winne the same, and the use of the cupps, till that daye twelve month, beinge in bonde to deliver in the cupps that daye; soe also for the cuppe for the ringe. Which was yearly continued accordingly, until the yeare of our Lorde 1623; John Brereton, inn-holder, being mayor of Chester, he altered the same after this manner, and caused the three cupps to be sould, and caused more money to be gathered and added, so that the interest thereof would make one faire silver cuppe, of the value of £8 as I suppose—it maye be more worth—and the race to be altered, viz., from beyonde the New Tower a great distance, and soe to rune five times from that place round about the Rood-dee, and he that overcame all the reste the last course, to have the cuppe for ever then and there delivered, which is continued to this daye. But here I must not omit the charge, and the solemnitie made the first of St. George's daye; he had a poet, one Mr. Davies, who made speeches and poetical verses, which were delivered at the high crosse, before the mayor and aldermen, with shows of his invention, which booke was imprinted and presented to that famous Prince Henry, eldeste sonne to the blessed King James, of famous memorie. Alsoe he caused a man to go upon the spire of St. Peter's steeple in Chester, and by the fane at the same tyme he sounded a drum, and displayed a banner upon the top of the same spire. And this was the original of St. George's Race, with the change thereof, as it is now used."

The foregoing account is taken from an ancient MS., entitled "Certayne collections of anciant tymes, concerning the anciant and famous citty of Chester, collected by the Reverend Man of God Mr. Robert Rogers, bachelor of divinity, archdeacon of Chester, parson of Goosworth, and prebende in the Cathedral of Chester, being put in scattered notes, and by his son reduced into these chapters following."

Newtown.

H. B. K.

[624]

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.

Up to the year 1784 the Mail Bags of Letters were conveyed by relays of horses provided by Postmasters, who were paid a given rate per mile, and in some few instances were transmitted in two wheel vehicles also. The last of these Horse Posts with saddle bags from CHESTER was the one to NORTHWICH, which ceased June 30, 1837.

This mode of conveying Letters was the one universally employed until 1784, when Mr. Palmer, the Manager of the Theatre at Bath, was put to so much inconvenience and loss by the great delay and irregularity in the conveyance of his Letters to and from London, that he devised the plan of employing Mail Coaches, which he laid before Mr. Pitt.

The slow rate of travelling previous to the employment of Mail Coaches was such that Letters leaving London on Monday night did not reach Birmingham until Wednesday morning, and CHESTER at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning. It then took five days to convey a letter from London to Glasgow.

One of the complaints made by Mr. Palmer was, that "the Mail is generally intrusted to some idle boy without character, mounted on a worn-out hack, and who, so far from being able to defend himself or escape from robbers, is much more likely to be in league with them."

Mr. Palmer presented the first rude sketch of his plan to Mr. Pitt in 1783; but though this sagacious Premier saw the important advantages which would arise from such a system, yet the Post Office authorities, as usual with every suggestion not emanating from themselves, so opposed the proposed improvement that it was not until 1784 that it was carried into effect.

The first Mail Coach with four horses commenced its journey from the General Post Office in London to Bristol at eight o'clock on the evening of August 8th, 1784, arriving at its destination at 11 a.m., of the 9th.

Shortly after this commencement of what were then called Palmer's Coaches, others were put on the principal roads, CHESTER being almost the first, because of its being the direct route to Ireland via Holyhead.

These Coaches were timed to travel at the rate of eight miles per hour, including stoppages; and to leave London at 8 o'clock p.m., and to be despatched from their several destinations, so as to arrive in London at 6 o'clock a.m.

These hours and rate of travelling appear not to have been changed until 1830; in which year the Mail was due in Chester from London at 6 15 p.m., and was re-despatched on its return at 6 15 a.m.; the time occupied in its journey being 22½ hours.

R. O.

Queries.

[625] FOOT-BALL IN CHESHIRE.

What is the earliest instance your correspondents can point to relative to this, in our day more than ever, popular game of FOOT-BALL? L. L.

[626] WILLIAM THROP, BOOKSELLER, IN CHESTER, 1658.

In 1658 the following sermon is published:—

“Funerals made Cordials,” published prepared and (in part) Preached at the solemn Interment of the Corps of the Right Honorable Robert Rich, Heire apparent to the Earldom of Warwick, By John Gauden, D.D., of Bocking, in Essex. London, Printed by T. C. for Andrew Crook, 1658.”

A copy of this sermon is in Ford's (the celebrated Manchester bookseller) *Catalogue* for 1825, and accompanied by the following note:—

“One cause of the great rarity of this Sermon may be, that tho' printed in London, it was sent to be sold by WILL. THROP, bookseller in Chester.”

Again, in Ford's *Catalogue* for 1832, there is another copy of the above sermon, and bearing at the foot the additional line as follows:—

“Sold at Chester by W. Throp, 1658.”

Can any of your readers give any information relative to W. THROP? and was he connected with THOMAS THROPPE, named at pp. 10 and 82 of THE SHEAF?

I have a copy of the sermon bearing the London imprint, but have never seen the one containing the Chester one. G. W. N.

Alderley Edge.

[627] THE CASTLE-YARD, NANTWICH.

Is there any locality in the modern town of Nantwich answering to the name of the CASTLE-YARD; or if not, do either of the printed Histories make any reference to such a place? Y. O. M.

Replies.

[628] WILLIAM LAWES.

[Nos. 572, 609.—March 19, April 9.]

DR. BRUSHFIELD, in giving some additional particulars respecting this musician, whose name in connection with CHESTER I chanced to find in the Temple Church Anthem Book, states that as Henry Lawes was appointed to the Chapel Royal in 1625 it is probable that William became one of the Gentlemen about the same time, so that the date, 1602 (incorrectly printed 1603 in THE SHEAF), as given by me is evidently erroneous.

Now 1602 does not appear to be so erroneous as Dr. Brushfield suggests; for in Chalmers' *Biography*, Dutton, the editor, says that William must have been considerably older than his brother Henry, though they frequently composed in conjunction; but we are unable to clear up this point of primogeniture; and in Hawkins' *History of Music*, vol. 4, page 47, it is said, that “he was first of the choir of Chichester, but was called from thence, and on the 1st day of January, 1602, was sworn a Gentleman of the Royal Chapel.”

Dr. Charles Burney, again, in his *History of Music*, vol. 3, page 391, says: “His first preferment was in the choir of Chichester, but he was soon called to London, where, in 1602, he was sworn a gentleman of the Chapel Royal;” and in the *Biographie Universelle de Musiciens*, par F. J. Pétis, Paris, 1863, is another corroboration:—“Lawes (Guillaume) naquit en cette ville (Salisbury) vers 1555. Après avoir été quelque temps attaché au chœur de Chichester, il obtint en 1602 une place dans la Chapelle Royale. . . .”

“Lawes (Henri) frère du précédent, mais beaucoup plus jeune, naquit à Salisbury en 1600.”

So much in defence of the accuracy of our Anthem Book, in which the composition of William Lawes is at page 18, and begins, “The Lord is my light and my Salvation.”

R. WILBRAHAM JONES.

The Temple, Easter Monday, 1879.

[629] THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.

[Nos. 588, 612.—March 26, April 9.]

“VERITAS,” I fear, reads and writes hastily; two undesirable things in one adopting such a signature. I have re-read my query and twice read his reply; and whilst I do not find a single word I need recall in the one, I submit there are two or three statements that need explanation in the other. “VERITAS” says the Rev. W. Walsham How “could give an account” of Whittington Church. Does he by that imply that I am wrong in my estimate of its architecture? He also says that the Jubilee Column was “a mere local affair,” and insinuates that it was got up by the “boys of the Ruthin Grammar School;” and that for want of funds it was “built of limestone instead of granite.” May I ask how all this, if true, affected the merits of the design? Lastly “VERITAS” points (as one proof that Mr. Harrison was an “eminent” architect), to Lord Hill's Column at Shrewsbury.

Let me for a moment examine such printed authorities as I possess, and test this information. “Mr. W. Davies, Jesus Chapel,” in his *Handbook to the Vale of Clwyd*, tells us that the Jubilee Tower was agreed to at a meeting of the inhabitants of the counties of Flint and Denbigh; that Lord Kenyon—“expressly appointed by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,”—laid the first stone; that all the nobility and gentry of the district were present; and that Sir Watkin attended with 500 Denbighshire Volunteers. A

list of subscribers to the monument gives the names of the Prince of Wales for £105, Sir T. Mostyn, £52, P. R. Price, Esq., High Sheriff, £21; Sir E. Lloyd, £25; Sir J. Williams, £21; Sir S. Glynn, £20; &c., &c., &c., but says nothing about the school boys of Ruthin.

As regards the Column at Shrewsbury. Local historians agree in saying it was the work of Mr. Haycock; the lions couchant being the design of Mr. Carline. The *Gentleman's Magazine*, of June, 1814, informs us that the committee who superintended its erection awarded their highest premium to R. Westmacott, R.A., the second to Mr. Haycock, and the third to Mr. Carline. Mr. Harrison's name is not mentioned.

The brick church at Whittington, that the rector "could tell us all about," has been so well covered with ivy that a chance passer-by might well fail to observe it altogether.

A. R.

Crosswylan, Oswestry.

[630] THE REV. JOHN WATSON, RECTOR OF STOCKPORT.

[No. 618.—April 16.]

I have read with very great interest the account of the visit of the industrious Manchester antiquary, Thomas Barrett, to his far more celebrated contemporary, the REV. JOHN WATSON, M.A., F.S.A., which MR. BAILEY contributes to this week's number of THE SHEAF. When I was collecting materials for my *History of East Cheshire* I heard of the death of the Rev. John Watson, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford (the grandson of the learned Rector of Stockport); and I think I may say that it was partly on my recommendation that the REV. JOHN WATSON'S MSS. were secured for the Bodleian Library, where they are now carefully preserved, and are accessible to all students. Of the general character of their contents I have already given a notice in my account of the Rev. John Watson to which MR. BAILEY has referred. Of the Lancashire collections, which contain a few notes on Eccles Church, &c., I have a large number of transcripts and notes, some of which I have made use of from time to time in "*Local Gleanings*." His Yorkshire and Cheshire collections are, however, by far the most valuable portions of his MSS, the former relating chiefly to the district round Halifax, and the latter to the neighbourhood of STOCKPORT. Of the LIFE OF PRESIDENT BRADSHAW, and the LIFE OF COLONEL BIRCH to which Mr. Barrett refers, I have full transcripts, and was at one time thinking of publishing the latter in full; but on the appearance of the Camden Society's Volume in 1873, where it is published from another transcript of the original Biography, the idea was abandoned. The Life of Bradshaw was the basis of the account of that celebrated man which was given in Britton and Brayley's description of Cheshire, published in 1810; but I have been enabled to add many new facts to this account in

my notes on the Life of John Bradshaw, which will appear in the second volume of *East Cheshire*, now in the press.

Watson's Library, which from Barrett's account must have been one of much value, descended, I believe, more or less entire to his only daughter, Ann Watson, who resided for many years at Maccolesfield, where she died at a very advanced age in 1855. The books, &c., were then purchased by a Maccolesfield bookseller, who sent them to London where they were sold, but I have not succeeded as yet in meeting with a copy of the Sale Catalogue. Some books from this collection which I have seen had Watson's bookplate, bearing the same arms that Barrett has drawn. A lithographic portrait of old Miss Watson, taken in 1850 when she was 88 years of age, was published at the time, but is now very scarce.

Some little time after the publication of some "Notes on the Life of Dr. JOHN HEWYTT," a Lancashire man by birth and a distinguished Royalist, who was beheaded in 1658, I learnt that the Rev. John Watson claimed to be descended from this family of the Hewytts, his grandmother being the great niece of Dr. John Hewytt. I have a copy of the Hewytt and Watson pedigree now before me, but it is obscure and requires a good deal of verification before it can be accepted. It is, however, a fact that together with a number of oil portraits relating to the family of Jacques, (the Rev. John Watson's second wife being a Miss Anne Jacques) there are preserved a very good oil portrait of the Rev. John Watson, and an earlier one of Dr. John Hewytt, but the latter has been much injured by an attempted restoration. I have been anxious to secure these two portraits for some public institution like the Chetham Library, Manchester, or the Bodleian Library, Oxford, but the spurious value that is put upon them by their present owners rendered such an idea quite out of the question.

J. P. BARWAKER.

Whittington, near Manchester.

APRIL 30, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

APRIL 30.—Sir William Dawes, bart., Bishop of Chester, died Archbishop of York...	1724
MAY 1.—Sir William Gerrard, kt., Recorder of Chester, died	1581
" 2.—Chester <i>Chronicle</i> newspaper started.....	1775
" 4.—William Downham consecrated Bishop of Chester	1561
" 5.—William Cliff made Dean of Chester.....	1547
" 6.—Edward Holt hung for burglary at Knutsford	1798
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[631] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS, No. V.

RUMOURED INVASION IN 1666.

The next Document we print from the Oulton Park series is one bearing the sign manual of King Charles II., and was addressed by his secretary, William Morrice, to the Earl of Derby, requiring him at once to complete the establishment of the Militia of Cheshire to its full extent in view of an anticipated INVASION.

"CHARLES R.

Right trusty and right welbeloved Cosin, Right trusty and welbeloved, and trusty and welbeloved, wee greet you well. Whereas vpon seu'all Intelligences from abroad, wee haue reason to Doubt that there are preparac'ons made by our Enemies towards an Invasion of this our Kingdome, Wee haue thought fitt to secure our selfe and Subjects in the best manner we can from theire attempts. And, in Order thereto, Concluded it requisite to putt the Militia of the Kingdome in a good posture of Defence, for w'oh purpose wee doe hereby require and Expressly Com'and you forthwith to repaire to some Convenient place within yo'r Leiveten'cy, thereby to vnite the Gentry, and to Quicken all vnder your Com'and to the Discharge of theire respective duties, And to put in execu'on these and what other Instrukc'ons you shall from time to time receave from vs. That see the Militia w'tin yo'r precincts be in a readines, if there shall be an Occasion to make vse of them.

You are therefore in the first place to take care that all yo'r Companies of Foott and troopes of horse be compleat according to the last established Settlem't. And if any of them be dead since the last Muster, or are remooved out of yo'r Leiveten'cy, that their places be filled with able Sufficient men, making vp likewise the Number of these Officers compleat. Taking further care to order that there Armes bee all fixed, and they haue in readiness a Sufficient Quantity of Ammunition, of Powder, Match and bullett, as the Act of Parliam't Concerning the Militia directts.

And for Avojdng more expence and trouble to the Countrey than is needfull in this time of Harvest, this may be done for the present (vnlesse more Danger occur) without either Gen'll or p'ticuler musters, by sending for and giving order to all yo'r ffield officers and Captaines that they make dilligent enquiry after these p'ticulers. And when they haue rightly Informed themselves thereof, then accordingly to acquaint you with it, Vpon w'oh you are forthwith to give an account thereof to the Lords of our Counsell, not onely of the Numbers of each Troope and Company, but also in What condition and readinesse they are now in.

And for the making a more Quick and speedy resistance in Case of an Invasion, you may appoint certaine Ports or places of Rendezvous within your

Leiveten'cy, whether the Souldiers may resort and make head vpon all Allarums, And where the Deputy Leiveten'ts next adiacent are to be present, Assigning them there p'ticuler Quarters and precincts within which they shall Command in such Cases. And for the prevention of any surprize in this nature, you are to take speciall care, and give speedy Orders that yo'r Beacons be watched by sufficient p'sons within the respective hundreds next Adioyning to the Seaside, and Fired as there shall be Occasion.

And whereas the Act of Parliam't ordaines a Weekes Assessm't, after the rate of 70,000 li. p' Mensem, shallbe raised or levied yearly for the defray of necessary charges, and making some allowances to Inferior officers, you are ymedietly to raise and levey the said Sum'es within your Leivetenency, if it bee not already done.

Wee further recom'end to you the putting in Execu'on all other powers with w'oh you are In-trusted that may tend to the preservation of the Publique Safety in this Coniuncture, according to the care and dilligence w'oh wee promise our selfe from you and of the whole; and whatever may relate thereto from tyme to tyme, to returne a full accountt to the Lords of our Privie Counsell, to the end such further Order may be given therein as shallbe found Necessary. And for soe doeing, this shallbe yo'r Warrant.

Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 25th day of June, 1666, In the Eighteenth yeare of our Reigne.

By his Ma'ties Com'and

WILL: MORRICE.

To our Right trusty and Right Wellbeloved Cousin Charles Earle of Derby, our Leiveten't of our County of Chester."

"This is a Coppy of my L'd Derby's Letter with his Ma'ties Inclosed in itt to the Deputy Leivetenants of the County of Chester.

"My Lord and Gentlemen.

His Ma'ties Letter (a true Coppy whereof is here inclosed) came to my hands yesterday: what is therein required, I pray you forthwith to Execute according to the tenor thereof, wherein I nothing doubt of your Zeale and Expedition.

I am,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Yo'r very Aff'te freind and Servant,

DARBY.

Knowsley, 1^o July, 1666.

Bee pleased to Informe mee of what was effected at your meeting at Northwich vpon Thursday last. Endorsed, For his Ma'ties service.

To the Right Hon'ble Robert Lord Cholmondeley, and the rest of my Deputy Leiveten'ts of the County pallatine of Chester."

In these days of Electric Telegraphy, it is interesting to note the reference, in the above Document, to the BEACON FIRES which, posted on the summits of the

highest land in each county, gave rapid intimation of any Invading Army seeking to land on any portion of our tight little island. It was the flash of those Beacon Fires which, in Queen Elizabeth's days, roused in one night the entire manhood of England to resist the threatened onslaught of the Spanish Armada.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[632] JAMES II. AND WILLIAM III. AT CHESTER. TOUCHING FOR THE KING'S EVIL.

The following three extracts from the "London Gazette, published by authority," in the seventeenth century, may interest or amuse your readers. The *First*, describing the visit to Chester of the "too Catholic" King, JAMES II., during his last Royal progress. The *Second*, noticing the duties of the clergy in connection with their ancient Royal prerogative of "Touching for the Evil" in the same reign. The *Third*, giving an account of the visit to the old city of his "truly Protestant" Majesty WILLIAM III., may be thought an apt illustration of the French proverb, "Le Roi est mort, Vive le Roi :—"

"No. 2273. Chester, August 27, 1687. His Majesty arrived here about 4 this afternoon, having been attended from the confines of this County by the High Sheriff, the Lord Cholmondeley, and a great appearance of Persons of Quality and others; at some distance from thence his Majesty was met by the Lord Delamere, the Lord Brandon, with a great Train of Knights and Gentlemen; and, about 5 miles from this Place, by the Lord Molineux and several Persons of Quality of the County of Lancaster. At a mile's distance from hence his Majesty was waited on by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs, and Common Council in their Formalities, on Horseback. At his Majesties Entrance into the City, the Mayor performed the usual Ceremonies and made the accustomed Presents; the Recorder delivering the grateful and dutiful sense of the whole Corporation upon this joyful occasion. After which his Majesty went on to his Lodgings provided in the Bishop's Palace, through Ranks of the Citizens and Companies in their Liveries, and throngs of people, imploring all Blessings upon his Majesty. At the East Gate the Governor attended with the keys of the Garrison, which were redelivered him; and from thence his Majesty passed through a Guard made to the Bishop's Palace; at the Gate whereof the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Dean and Prebends, and a great Body of the Clergy waited to receive his Majesty, the Dean making their humble Compliments, which his Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously; as he did all the other expressions of a most sincere Loyalty and Fidelity, which the Noblemen, Gentlemen, and others had the Honour to be

admitted to make to his Majesty in their own Names and the Names of those they were desired to represent."

"No. 2279. Whitehall, September 19, 1688. His Majesty having been pleased in the late Progress to Touch for the Evil above 5000 persons [a considerable number of them were "touched" at Chester], his Majesties Serjeant Chirurgeon hath observed a great Neglect in the Ministers of the several Parishes, in not keeping (as they ought to do) an exact Register of those for whom they have Certify'd in order to their obtaining Tickets to be Touched: For want whereof several abuses have been committed, and many that have been Touched before, producing Certificates as if it hath not been so, have had new Pieces of Gold given them contrary to the Established order, which the respective Ministers therefore are required to be more careful in for the Future."

No. 2564. Chester, June 9, 1690.—His Majesty came to Peel, Colonel Whitley's House, on Saturday about Noon, having through his whole Journey been attended with the Acclamations of vast Crowds of People, who, in a very remarkable manner, followed his Majesty with Wishes and Prayers for his prosperous Voyage. Yesterday morning his Majesty came hither, with a numerous attendance of Nobility and Gentry. The Mayor, Aldermen and Common-Council in their Formalities, and on Horseback, with the twenty-four Companies of the Citizens in their Gowns, and with their Colours, waited on his Majesty at the entering into our Liberties; his Majesty went directly to the Cathedral, the Mayor carrying the Sword, and the Senior Alderman the Mace, before him at the Church door. The Bishop and his Clergy received his Majesty, and conducted him into the Quire. After Divine Service, and a Sermon preached by the Bishop, his Majesty took Coach again, and went to Gayton, the House of Mr. Gleg, 10 miles off, where he was met by Sir Clowdesley Shovell and the rest of the Sea Commanders. In the Evening his Majesty went to *Highlake*, to see the ships, and returned to Gayton about 10 at night, and to-morrow his Majesty intends to Embark if the wind permits."

The Religious Ceremony of touching for the King's Evil is said to be as old as Edward the Confessor, and continued to find a place in the Book of Common Prayer under the Title of "The office for the Healing." In editions of it printed during the reign of GEORGE I. Boswell tells us that Dr. Johnson was among the number so touched by Queen ANNE in Lent, 1712. Evelyn gives the following account of the ceremony in his *Diary* under date July 6, 1660, the year of the Restoration of Charles II.

"His Majestie began first to *touch for the Evil*, according to custome, thus: his Majestie sitting under his State in the Banqueting House, the Chirurgeons cause the sick to be brought or led up to the throne, where, they kneeling, the King strokes their faces or cheekes with both his hands at once,

at which instant a Chaplaine in his formalities says 'He put his hands upon them and he healed them.' This is said to every one in particular. When they have been all touch'd, they come up againe in the same order, and the other Chaplaine kneeling, and having Angel gold strung on white ribbon on his arme, delivers them one by one to his Majestie, who puts them about the necks of the touched as they passe, whilst the first Chaplaine repeats 'That is the true light who came into the world.' Then followes an Epistle (as at first a Gospell) with the Liturgy, prayers for the Sick, with some alteration, lastly the Blessing; and the Lo: Chamberlaine and Comptroller of the Household bring a basin, ewer and towell, for his Majestie to wash."

Portsmouth.

R. M. BLOMFIELD.

[633] MAIL COACHMEN AND GUARDS.

The Mail Coachmen were the servants of the Mail Contractors. In 1830 Mrs. Meroy Tomlinson was the Contractor in CHESTER, the Mail Office being in the Royal Hotel Bow; and Mr. Thomas Herbert was Mail Coachman. In course of time the latter became one of the Contractors, and the Mail Coach Office was under the Feathers Hotel. The Mail Coaches travelled along all Turnpike Roads free of toll: in fact such is the case now, with all vehicles and Horses carrying Mail Bags.

The Mail Guards were the servants of the Postmaster General. Their pay was only 10s. 6d. per week, with a livery coat, waistcoat, and hat. They were permitted to ask the passengers to "Please remember the Guard," a beggarly permission to add to their pay, quite characteristic of the Post Office management and pay in those days.

The three London Mail Coach Guards resident in Chester, travelled as far as Hinckley, where they were met by the Guards from London.

Owing to the high rate of postage in those days, the Mail Guards were entrusted by the Provincial Bankers with the conveyance of their parcels containing bank notes between them and their London Agents. I have seen many of these parcels weighing two and three pounds each entrusted to Mail Guards, shewing the trustworthy character of the men.

The duty of the Mail Guard was not only to protect bags, for which purpose he carried a blunderbuss, but also to see to the correct delivery and exchange of the bags, to see that correct time was kept, and, in case of accident, to use every means to get the bags forwarded on with the least delay.

To show the activity and energy displayed by them in such cases, I give herewith a copy of a report made by a Holyhead Mail Guard of an accident which occurred at Bangor shortly before the Mail Coach was replaced by the railway:—

"I am sorry to have to inform you of an accident to the Holyhead and Chester Mail up, of last night. On descending the Hill, rather sharp, between

Bangor Ferry and Bangor, the near wheeler fell, which drove the Coach against the Wall, and threw it over. I immediately procured a Car from Bangor, and proceeded with it to Aber, and from thence by Chaise and pair; but before reaching Conway, the hind wheel came off, and I was compelled to go on with only one Horse to Conway, where I procured another Chaise, which I brought through to Chester; which place I reached at 4 o'clock A.M.; being only 15 minutes past my proper time."

The following is copied from a stone in Holyhead Churchyard, and relates to a period when Mail Guards were not:—

"Underneath lie the remains of Hugh Evans, of this Parish, Farmer, who had the conveyance of the Dublin and London Mail on Horseback from Holyhead to Gwyndy House, for 49 years, when superseded by the Mail Coach; who died Novr. 26 1796, aged 92 years."

Previous to the year 1825, at the commencement of Winter, a circular was sent to each postmaster, giving instructions how to act in case of a heavy fall of snow, to prevent delay.

In this circular was given a sketch of a snow-plough, with instructions how to make one, but I never saw one made or used.

R. O.

[684] CHESHIRE DIALECT.

As "AITCHES" seem rather captivating, though perhaps not so catching as they would be without the "A," illustrations of a few more Cheshire words may not be uninteresting.

ACCOUNT.—Of a worthless fellow, it is said, "He's nae much to make account on."

AGATE.—Bullying. "He's auways agate o' me."

EGG. To egg on. To pelt with rotten eggs (?)

ANENST. Opposite; but also used to signify equality. "You know Master Frost. He's a gentleman loik. He asked moi age, and he tow'd me his, and was o'er anenst me, just as if oi'd been his equal."

As GOOD. As well. "As good ask him for one of his teeth." A close-fisted fellow: of whom it would also be said, "You'll get no change out of him."

As. "There's mony a thing as belongs to every-thing."

AUTER. Halter. "He'll play the auter with you if yo done that." Intended to be something as bad as hanging.

BALKED. Disappointed. Like a cat that has missed its leap.

BALLY. "What comes o'er the devil's back goes under his bally." Ill gotten gain.

BEARDINGS. Brushings of a hedge. "The beard will not pay for the shaving."

BELLOT. The last Middlewich Bellot—Jemmy Burgoyne—was a tall, powerful man. Being in arrear with his rates, old John Hough, the town constable, took possession of his goods under a warrant. In the middle of the night Burgoyne appeared to him. "You must be very lonely, John; I 'an brought you a young lady to keep you company!" and turned the bear into the room. John bolted, and Burgoyne put his bear and traps into his cart, and went off.

B. J. L. V.

Queries.

[635] THE MAYOR OF CHESTER'S PILLORY.

Where was this engine of punishment set up in ancient days? Could the Mayor exercise his right of punishment, by pillory, beyond the confines of the city? Streets in Nantwich and at Rhuddlan in Flintshire still testify to the locality in which this now obsolete punishment was inflicted.

G. T.

[636] THE EARLDOM OF CHESTER.

Since this Earldom was taken over by the Crown on the failure of direct male heirs at the death of Earl John Scot, in June, 1237, it has continued to be the second hereditary title of the Royal Princes of Wales. But did this order of precedence always prevail when associating these two always great titles of almost regal standing?

H. S. A.

Replies.

[637] MAY POLES.

[Nos. 8, 24.—May 1, 8.]

In reference to the correspondence in *THE SHEAF* connected with the above, the following will elucidate in some measure the positions which they occupied in the city. The *Chester Chronicle*, of Friday, May 27, 1825, thus alludes to them:—

"There are three of these MAY POLES in CHESTER, two at the bottom of Sty-lane (now known by the more polished name of Greenway-street, because, we suppose, the causeway is chiefly composed of mud baked by the sun on the river sands); and one in Handbridge, at the junction of the roads leading to Eaton and Holyhead. During the past week EARL GROSVENOR has presented the

good folks of Sty-lane with a new Pole; and on Monday last, in compliance with the custom of other days, the garlands and gilt talbot were paraded through the streets, preceded by banners and drums and fifes."

Ledham.

R. M.

[638] THE REV. R. FARRINGTON, M.A., 1741.

[Nos. 47, 200.—May 22, August 7.]

Nearly a year ago I asked through your columns for some particulars of the REV. R. FARRINGTON, M.A., the author of a volume of sermons published by subscription in 1741. From the list of subscribers, &c., I was under the impression that he was a Cheshire man by birth, although beneficed in Wales. The two replies which appeared to this query, however, tended to identify him as a certain RICHARD FARRINGTON, who was the son of Robert Farrington, of Carnarvon, and who matriculated at Oxford from Jesus College on the 23rd Nov., 1720, *et.* 18, taking his B.A. degree there on the 22nd Feb., 1724.

By a strange accident I have recently met with his name in a printed pedigree, which I was looking at for another purpose, and which, if correct, will either considerably modify or upset the replies above referred to. From this pedigree it appears that "RICHARD FARRINGTON, M.A., author of a volume of sermons," was "Rector of Llangybig and Chaplain to the Prince" [? of Wales], and that he was the son of Robert Farrington, of CHESTER, vintner, by Elizabeth Jones, daughter and heiress of John Jones, of Newborough, merchant, and also heiress to William Owen, of Cefn ys Gwydd, her grandfather. The Rev. Richard Farrington married Mary, daughter and heiress of Richard Ellis, of Cheltenham (by his wife Mary, daughter and heiress of Thomas Barker of Cheltenham), and by her he had two sons and two daughters. The two sons, Richard and Roger, died without issue; and of the daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, the former married William Bridge, gent. All this seems straightforward enough, but, like so many other printed pedigrees, it lacks much real value in the entire absence of dates; but collateral evidence points to the early part of the last century as the time during which this Richard Farrington was living.

Another question also occurs,—was the "Robert Farrington of Carnarvon" in 1720, the same person as the "Robert Farrington of Chester, vintner," of this pedigree? but here no doubt Mr. HUGHES will be able to supply the necessary proof. Also, if this is the case, was Richard Farrington born at Carnarvon or at Chester? Perhaps from the Register of Llangybig the date of the rector's decease may be ascertained; or possibly his tombstone giving his age at death and other information may still exist.

J. P. FARWAKER.

Withington, near Manchester.

[639] THE MILK STOUPS, CHESTER.

[Nos. 522, 557, 565, 620.—Feb. 18, March 12, April 16.]

This is a common Cheshire word. The posts put up in fields for cattle to rub themselves against are called "stoups." Any post in Cheshire is a "stoup." The door-posts of a house are called the "Door-stoups."

Hull.

E. FRENCH.

[640] THE UNDERGROUND PASSAGES OF CHESTER.

[No. 540.—February 26.]

When the "Old Lamb Row," which stood at the junction of Bridge-street and Grosvenor-street, was pulled down, one of these so-called underground passages was out through in preparing for the foundations of the block of buildings which now occupy the site of the old Row.

Are these passages any more than sewers—perhaps made by the Roman soldiers during their occupation? We hear much about underground passages in many of our old towns. They could not have been used for people to pass to and fro; the foul air which would gather into them would make them unfit for such a use; besides, what need would there be for folks to go underground when they could go above it?

Hull.

E. FRENCH.

MAY 7, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MAY 7.—Geoffrey, 7th Abbot of Chester, died.....	1208
„ 8.—Sir Thomas Delves, of Doddington, created Baronet.....	1621
„ 9.—Thompson, Morgan, and Clare hung at Boughton	1801
„ 11.—George Hall consecrated Bishop of Chester.....	1662
„ 13.—John Oakes hung for coining	1784

J. H.

Original Documents.

[641] MANCHESTER AND CHESTER SANCTUARY.

Just as in patriarchal times Cities of Refuge were established to which "he might flee who killed his neighbour unawares," and be there safe from the avenger of blood; so in England, in mediæval days, the altars of our greater abbeys were appointed by the Church, and certain cities and places dotted over the country were set apart by the State, to which the oppressed and unfortunate might flee in their extreme need, and be practically safe from the pursuit of the enemy.

It will be readily seen how, in process of time, abuses would creep in, and how these places of SANCTUARY would ultimately become very nests of iniquity, and a source of terror to the peaceful resident population. MANCHESTER was by the Act 32 Henry VIII., cap. 12 (1540) erected into a SANCTUARY, the traditional site of which was at Hyde's Cross. But Cottonopolis could not endure the infliction more than a single year; so by Act 33 Henry VIII., cap. 15 (1541), the distinction or disgrace, in whichever light it might be regarded by different eyes, was transferred to CHESTER; the title of the Act in question being "An act touching the translation of sanctuary to West-Chester." After describing the intolerable nuisance attending the Sanctuary during the few months it had existed at Manchester, and the threatened desolation of the town through its means, the Act thus (in modernised spelling) proceeds:—

"And also, forasmuch as the town of Manchester is not walled, whereby the sanctuary men may or can safely be kept in the night season, but that they may and do continually escape out of the town by night, and commit sundry great robberies and felonies upon the King's loving and obedient subjects repairing to the town, and after their said felonies and robberies so committed, may without any let of wall or fortress, enter into any part and quarters of the same town.

"And also forasmuch as there is neither mayor, sheriff, bailiff, nor other head officer or officers within the town, other than a steward, being officer immediately under the chief lord of the town, by reason whereof or by whom the said sanctuary men might be more in dread, or better punished, after their robberies or evil doings; nor yet any prison-house or gaol safely to keep them in, after their offences or evil doings.

"Wherefore be it ordered and enacted, &c., that the town of Manchester shall from the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist next coming (June 24, 1542) be released and discharged from the said sanctuary, and be of like condition, estate and quality as the same town was before the making of the said former Act."

The statute in question further enacts that CHESTER, which was well inhabited, having no such trade of merchandize, and having a strong gaol within the city for punishing of malefactors, and also within the city a mayor, bailiff, and other head officers, amongst other towns and places, should from thenceforth be admitted, allowed, and taken to be Sanctuary, and a place of privilege and tuition. And that the constables of Manchester, taking with them twenty of the inhabitants (one for each sanctuary man) should take and bring from Manchester to Chester the said sanctuary men, there to be delivered to the mayor and sheriffs of the city, and there to remain.

CHESTER was not grateful for the blessing thus conferred on it by the King and Parliament. What

was so intensely hateful to MANCHESTER was not likely to be over palatable to the loyal city on the banks of the Dee. Accordingly, as the last Act enabled the Crown to remove the Sanctuary from any place which flouted the dubious honor, the Cestrians took the matter in hand, in the terms of the following record preserved in the earliest existing ASSEMBLY BOOK of the city:—

"Tempore Hugonis Aldersaye, Maioris civitatis Cestr', viz:—decimo die Julij, A'o xxxiiij H. viij (1542).

MANCHESTER AND CHESTER SANCTUARY.

"Memorand', That whereas by auctoritie of a p'liament holden at Westm'r the xvj day of Januarij in the xxxij yere of ye Reign of ou' most dere sou'egne Lorde abouesaid, yt was enacted that Manchestr', then being A seyntuarie towne, should from thensforth be clerly dyschargid of ye same saynttuarie & p'uilage; & that this citie of Chest'r should from hensforth be & contynue A santtuari & a place of p'uilege for term of lyfs of all man' of offenders; w'th a p'uiso that the Kings maiestie myght Reforme and change the Same sanctuary to any other place as his grace should see Considera'ion.

And for as much as if the same sayntuary should hane been & contynned in this citie would not onely hane eiduced grete soland'r and decaie of cred'nnee of ye m'ch'nnts and inhabyt'nnts of the same, wyth mayny other intollerable Inconuenyences w'ch wer lyke to hane ensued to this citie, being a port towne, & standing so nygh Wales, to the grete hinder'nnee, daunger & damage of the same: in avoyding wherof ye said mair accompanyd w't folke dutton, Ald'man of ye said citie, by ye hole consent of th' ald'men and oom'on counsaile of the same Citie, the xxij day of June last past, Rode to the Kinges maieste to make sute for Reformation of the same; by whoes diligent labor and p'sute it pleased his grace vpon c'ten declarao'ons declarid by them vnto his maieste, to Remoue ye same sanctuary vnto the towne of Stafford, as by his most gracious will of p'olamao'on vnder his brode seale more at large doth apere. Which said p'olamao'on vnder the King's broade seale now doth Remayne in the Tresuruse house of the same Citie in the Comon oofor Their."

How long Stafford was encumbered with the nuisance does not appear. CHESTER, however, was not again troubled with it, save in a much milder form, and to this THE SHEAF may hereafter have something to say.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[642] CHESTER RACES.

The first year of the Tradesmen's Cup being competed for was in 1824, as will be seen from the advertisement inserted in the local papers of July, 1823, and which I give here at length:—

"FIRST YEAR OF THE TRADESMEN'S CUP, FIRST DAY.

CHESTER RACES, 1824.

The TRADESMEN'S CUP, value One Hundred Guineas, to be run for on Monday, May 6th, to which will be added a Free Handicap of Fifteen Guineas each, to close and name on the 1st of January to Mr. Weatherby, London, or Mr. Jackson, Clerk of the Course, Chester. Weights to be published on the 1st of February. Ten Guineas forfeit, and Five only if declared on or before the 14th of February. Three to accept or no race. To start at the Castle Pole, run twice round, and end at the coming in chair.

At a Meeting of the GRAND STAND COMMITTEE on Tuesday, July 22 (1823),

Ordered,

On the motion of Sir Thomas M. Stanley, Bart., seconded by Sir H. M. Mainwaring, Bart., that the Thanks of the committee be given to the SUBSCRIBERS to the TRADESMEN'S CUP for their very liberal donation.

J. JACKSON,

Clerk of the Course.

It was won by

Sir Thomas Stanley's oh h *Dogs of Venice*, 6 yrs ... 1
Lord Grosvenor's bl m *Etiquette*, 4 yrs 2
Mr. Toms's b h *Felix*, by *Comus*, 4 yrs 3

The following also ran:—

Mr. Rogers's gr h *Sir Edward*, 5 yrs.
Mr. Mytton's oh g *Euphrates*, aged
Sir W. W. Wynn's b h *Belmont*, 5 yrs."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[643] CHESTER TRADESMEN'S CUP, 1827.

In 1827 the funds for supplying this Cup were not in a very flourishing condition, as will be seen by the accounts published, signed by Robert Brittain, Chairman, and J. E. Jackson, Secretary, of which the following is a copy:—

"Chester Tradesmen's Cup Committee, in Account Current.

Dr.	£ s. d.
To balance in the hands of Messrs. Dixon and Chilton for 1826.....	2 14 6
To subscriptions 1827 paid into Bank.....	97 17 0
	£100 11 6

Cr.	£ s. d.
By Cash paid for Printing and Advertisements	7 2 0
By Cash paid Collector	4 8 0
By Cash paid Messrs. Huntington on account	89 1 6
	£100 11 6

Messrs. Huntington's bill for Cup and Case, per order	105 0 0
Cash paid on account as above.....	89 1 6
Balance due to Messrs. Huntington	15 18 6

C. THORNTON.

[644] TREASURE FOUND THROUGH A DREAM.

Under the head of "Discovery of Things Secret or Future by Dreams, &c.," William Turner, in his *Remarkable Providences*, fol. 1697, p. 52, relates the following:—

"One Mr. Samuel Lawrence, a minister at Nantwich in Cheshire, informs me at the writing hereof, of a Treasure of Gold found by occasion of a Dream; for the farther confirmation whereof, he refers me to one Mr. Chorlton of Manchester; but supposing I shall get no part of the Treasure by it, I have saved myself the trouble of sending so far to enquire any further after it."

This Mr. Chorlton would be Henry Newcoome's assistant and successor at Cross-street Chapel, Manchester.

Stretford.

J. E. BAILLY.

[645] THE CHESHIRE MILITIA.

Apropos of the 1st Royal Cheshire L. I. Militia, the following list of Officers serving in the Regiment in the year 1781 may be of interest to your readers.

It may be noted that at that time there was only one regiment of Cheshire Militia, which renewed its former existence in 1756.

The date appended to each name is that of the commission then held:—

Colonel,—George, Earl of Cholmondeley, 25 Jan., 1771.

Lt.-Colonel,—John Crewe, 25 March, 1778.

Major,—Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart. (Sir Salusbury Cotton was father of the celebrated Lord Combermere, Field Marshal, &c.)

Captain H. E. Bennett, 24 April, 1764.

Captain Roger Barnston, 25 May, 1778. (It is a mistake to suppose that this gentleman, who was afterwards Colonel Barnston, was an officer of Volunteers. He was, as the Army List alluded to above proves, an officer in the Militia.) [Our correspondent has come to a too hasty conclusion: COL. BARNSTON was Commanding Officer of the Chester Regiment of VOLUNTEERS early in the present century.—EDITOR.]

Captain G. J. Cholmondeley, 25 March, 1778.

Captain Robert Young, 27 April, 1778.

Captain Sir Willoughby Aston, Bart., 26 May, 1778.

Captain John Stephens (Adjutant) 23 Jan. 1760.

Captain-Lieutenant & Captain Daniel Arthur.

Lieutenant John Bardeley, 1 June, 1763.

Lieutenant Thomas Davies, 25 March, 1778.

Lieutenant Murray Hincks.

Lieutenant Joseph Cookson.

Lieutenant Peter Wattenhall.

Lieutenant T. Harding.

Lieutenant J. Hully.

Lieutenant & Quarter-Master J. C. Everest.

Lieutenant, 25 March, 1778.

Lieutenant & Surgeon John Edwards.

Lieutenant, 26 April, 1778.

Surgeon, 2 June, 1761.

Ensign C. Kelley, 25 July, 1778,

Ensign J. Dodd.

Ensign B. Edwards.

Ensign R. Cumberback.

Ensign G. French.

[Mr. French was father of our well beloved citizen, Major French, who himself wore the uniform of the 1st CHESHIRE before volunteering into the Line.]

Ensign J. Beckett.

Ensign M. Bailey.

Ensign F. P. Price.

Ensign James Lowe.

Those Officers' names which appear without the dates of their respective commissions are wanting in this respect in the List from which the above information is derived. The Agent to the Regiment was G. Blount, Esq., Abingdon-street, Westminster, London. At the period to which we refer the Regiment was embodied—dating from the 26th March, 1778.

P. H. B. S.

Queries.

[646] MALPAS CHURCH JOTTINGS.

Is it generally known that the handles of old Tankards had often a whistle in them, for the purpose, it is presumed, of summoning the domestics to replenish the failing liquor? I have a Tankard of my own which has evidently had such a whistle: and I am ashamed to say that one of the flagons of Malpas Church has the same (obstrusted) peculiarity. *Per contra* I have some Salvers, as they would now be called, which have evidently (I should say) been Patens. *Apropos*: The Altar Cloth lately disused here was the late Marquess of Cholmondeley's "Coronation Robe." And a font formerly here, now in St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, was a Wine-cooler at Oulton. I know again a parish where the Font has become a Horse-trough. I do not think on the whole that the idea of consecration has been carried to a logical absurdity in England.

P.S.—It is suggested to me that we have in the fact above indicated an explanation of the Proverb: "You may whistle for more if you want it!"

Malpas.

W. T. KENTON.

[647] A CESTRIAN MUSE.

I recently saw in a lady's album in Westmoreland the manuscript transcript of a poem entitled *Marina*, to which a note was appended at the conclusion that it was the composition of a native of Chester. Is anything known of the poem locally, and can any of your correspondents inform me who was the author?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[648] NOTES ON PRINTING AT CHESTER.

[No. 390.—Nov. 27.]

Arohdeacon Cotton was, I think, nearly right in the statement made in his *Typographical Gazetteer* that there was a Printer at Chester in 1656; but he might just as well have recorded that pioneer's name. Without presuming to speak with absolute decision, I think it is not impossible even now to supply the omission.

I have in my collection what I believe to be an almost unique printed hand-bill, which owes its preservation to the fact that some early bookbinder at Chester had used it to stiffen the boards of a volume intrusted to him to bind. It was so found by that veteran bibliopole, the late Mr. G. H. CROWTHER, well known to the old book-worms of Chester 25 years ago; from whom "for a consideration" it passed the same day into my safe keeping. The hand-bill, which is of 8vo. form, runs thus:—

"These are to give notice, That at the Sign of the *Hand and Bible* in this City of Chester, that any one that stands in need or hath a desire to buy any *Bookes*, may there be furnished with several sorts of New and Old, or have *new* and *old* bound at a reasonable price; and smal *Pictures* in black and white, and in colours, And also several sorts of Maps smal and large, black and white, and in colours. Likewise white paper of several sorts, gilt and ruled for Musick Books, and ruled for books of Accompts, and coloured paper of the best. Sealing Was hard and soft. *Pennes*, *Pensils* black and red. And also *Inkhorns* of several sorts; and *Letter-Cases*, black boxes, *Vellome*, *Parchment*, *Spectacles* of several sorts, & *Cases* for them of several sorts, *Mouth-glue*, *claspes* for books, *Quills*, *Wafers*, *New-bookes* and *Newes* weekly.

WILLIAM THORPPE."

There is unfortunately no date to this *morceau*, but it may well be about 1657, for reasons which will appear in another Reply of mine in this week's SHEAF. It is extremely rude as a matter of typography and composition, the recurrence no less than five times of the term "of several sorts," indicating a rather low type of literary power. I incline to the belief that when WILLIAM THORPPE settled or "set up" at CHESTER in 1657, he brought with him (perhaps indeed found here) a small primitive press, with a meagre stock of as primitive type; not sufficient probably to print a volume, but equal to the emergency of producing a handbill such as that personal advertisement of his which I have introduced above.

T. HUGHES.

[649] WILLIAM LAWES.

[Nos. 572, 609, 628.—March 19, April 9, April 22.]

Looking through Robert Herrick's *Poems*, amongst the "Encomiastic Verses," I met with the following:—

"UPON MR. WILLIAM LAWES, THE BARE MUSICIAN.

Should I not put on blacks, when each one here
Comes with his cypress and devotes a tear?
Should I not grieve, my LAWES, when every lute,
Viol, and voice is, by thy loss struck mute?
Thy loss, brave man! whose numbers have been
hurl'd,
And no less prais'd than spread throughout the
world:

Some have thee call'd Amphion; some of us
Nam'd thee Terpander, or sweet Orpheus;
Some this, some that, but all in this agree,
Music had both her birth and death with thee."

Clarke's Edition of *Hesperides* (London, 1844),
Vol. 2, p. 169.

Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

[650] STOK AND STANNY.

[No. 607.—April 9.]

Your correspondent "H." has not given the complete version of this Cheshire distich as I remember hearing it in my childhood. The climax seems to centre in the last and omitted line, which I here supply:—

"In STOK there are but few good folk,
In STANNY hardly any,
Except JOHN GRACE and NANNY!"

C. B.

[651] WILLIAM THROP, BOOKSELLER IN CHESTER, 1658.

[No. 626.—April 23.]

"G. W. N." has, by his query, opened out a subject of considerable interest in the literary history of Chester—one, indeed, which had engaged my attention before the Chester Archaeological Society more than twenty years ago (*Chester Archaeological Journal*, vol. ii., pp. 21-30.)

A preceding article in this day's SHEAF will show that I claim for WILLIAM THROP (if not for even an immediate predecessor of his) the high honour of being the pioneer of the art of Printing at CHESTER; and I have there reproduced the text of what was probably the very first trifle printed at his modest local press—the circular introducing himself to the notice of the citizens. The information I in 1857 possessed would not allow me to date back that handbill earlier than 1660; but G. W. N.'s extract enables me to go back two or three years prior still, to the year in fact of THROP's first public appearance at Chester.

I find from the Minute Book of the Company of "PAYNTERS, GLASERS, IMBROTHERERS (Embroiderers), AND STACIONERS at Chester, that WILLIAM THROP was admitted a Brother of that Guild on St. Luke's Day, 1657, paying as entrance fee the sum of £2 10s., and supplementing the event with a dinner to the company, the cost of which is recorded as £1 13s. 4d. He continued a member of the Company

until 1675, in which year he died. I have no certain evidence as to the parentage of WILLIAM THROP, who signed himself indifferently *Throppe* and *Throp*. But in my printed paper in the Chester Society's *Journal*, I hazarded the belief that he was a son of RICHARD THROP, of Chester, stationer, who was admitted into the company as a "forener" from London, on February 22nd, 1637, paying £5 as his fees, or double those imposed many years afterwards on his presumed son WILLIAM.

Since the communication of G. W. N.'s query, I have, through the great courtesy of Mr. Rivington, Clerk of the STATIONERS' COMPANY, LONDON, ascertained from the records of that ancient Guild, that in—

"1596, 6 Septembris

"Richard Throp, son of Thomas Throp, of Barnet, in the county of Middlesex, Inholder, hath putt himself an Apprentice to Martin Ensor, Citizen and Stationer, of London, for Seven yeres from the day of the date of these presentes, viz. 24 Auguste, 1596.....iij. vjd."

An elder brother of Richard's, viz. THOMAS THROP, had been previously, 5th June, 1584, apprenticed for nine years to Martin Watkins, then Elder Warden of the same Company. I fancy Richard Throp must, in the long interval, have failed in business at London, and in middle life have made a fresh start by settling at Chester. William Throp, if his son, would thus have no doubt been born in London.

Now, whether Barnet in Middlesex or Chester itself was the original habitat of the Throp family of stationers, I cannot at present say; but as Thomas Throp, the father of Thomas and Richard, the London stationers, was an innholder, as were THOMAS THROPPE, the loyal Alderman of Chester (CHESHIRE SHEAF, No. 111), and his old father before him; and as moreover the arms borne by the two families were identical, I am drawn to the conclusion that the Barnet and Chester Throppe were in blood, as they were ultimately by residence, very closely connected. T. HUGHES.

MAY 14, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MAY 14.—Dr. Porteus, 23rd Bishop of Chester, died	1806
„ 15.—Henry Bridgeman, 14th Dean of Chester, died	1682
„ 16.—First stone of St. Michael's Church tower, Chester, laid	1849
„ 17.—Sir William Brereton, Chamberlain of Cheshire, executed	1535
„ 18.—Henry Phillpotts (afterwards Bishop of Exeter), installed Dean of Chester...	1828
„ 19.—The Abbey Gate, Chester, finished	1590
„ 20.—Execution of John Kragon at Chester...	1823

J. H.

Original Documents.

[652] CORONERS' INQUESTS AT CHESTER.

The office of the CORONERS OF CHESTER (for there were always two until the passing of the Municipal Reform Act), was of great antiquity, or at least as early as the 28th Edward I. (1299). Their jurisdiction extended throughout the city and its liberties, and down the River Dee at high water mark from Chester to the Red Stones, near Hoylake.

In the Muniment-room of the Corporation are several bundles of these CORONERS' INQUISITIONS, extending from 1510 to the present time; many of them enquiries simply as to what property the persons named were in possession of at the time of their death; but the great majority referring to deaths by accident, or violence within the limits above-named. I have selected two, almost at hap-hazard, from the earliest bundle, and, as the original records are in Latin, have translated them literally for the benefit of the general reader.

"AN INQUISITION taken at CHESTER, in the Common Hall of Pleas there, before RICHARD GROSVENOR and HAMON GODEMAN, Coroners of the County of the City of Chester, on Monday next after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross [May 3], in the eleventh year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth after the Conquest of England. Upon view of the body of MARGARET, late wife of TUDER AP THOMAS, by accident suddenly killed. By the oath of Hugh Clerke, John Birkedale, Randle Doune, Godfrey Cowper, William Schawe, Nicholas Ketill, Thomas Overton, Robert Percyvall, Thomas Huet, Richard Lyme, Daniel Robynson, Peter Woddefen, and Robert Brerewodde,

Who say upon their oath that the said MARGARET on the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Ambrose the Bishop [Dec. 7], in the 10th year of Henry VIII. aforesaid, and within the liberties of the said city, in a certain street called "the Bruggestrete," by unfortunate accident on a stair in the mansion-house of the said TUDER, about eleven o'clock at night of the same day, fell backwards suddenly from the top stair to the bottom, with her head against a stone there; thus giving herself a great blow, from which she, the said MARGARET, at Chester aforesaid, on the Sunday then next following died, and was so by the said accident unfortunately killed. In testimony of which fact the aforesaid CORONERS and JURY have to this Inquisition affixed their seals. Given the day and year [1518] aforesaid."

TUDER AP THOMAS, the husband, was an unlucky man. In 1491, our Chester annals inform us—

"There was a great tempest on St. John's Day at Christmas. A child of Tudor ap Thomas [elsewhere described as a "mercer,"] was slain by the fall of a principal from St. Peter's Church."

And, as the above document proves, his wife Margaret now, 27 years afterwards, dies by an accident in her husband's house. TUDER AP THOMAS was Sheriff of Chester in 1496, but never reached the mayoralty.

The second Document relates to a much more serious matter which, if the offender had not shewn a nimble pair of heels, might have ended somewhat disastrously for Master Richard Lewis.

"AN INQUISITION taken at the Common Hall at Chester, the 1st of February, 6th Edward VI. (1553), upon the oaths of Robert Walley of the city of Chester, merchant, John Rosumgreve, glover, Ralph Bamville, draper, John Bradborne, shoemaker, Richard Spenser, taylor, John Coke, shoemaker, Richard Downe, iremonger, Roger Lingley, shoemaker, Thomas Rog'son, glover, John Caldey, glover, Richard Brynne, bocher, Edward hey, m'haunte, Robert Burg's, taylor, John Rosumgreve, taylor, and Gilbert Whythead, glover.

Who on their oath say that RICHARD LEWES, of Chester, hammerer, on the 4th Dec. 5th Edward VI. (1553), in the county of the same city, in a certain place called "le Rode Dee, under the Walls" of the said city, vi et armis, to wit, with a sword and shield made attack upon one RICHARD GERRAT, of the city of Chester, mariner; and with a certain sword of the value of twenty pence, which he had in his hands, struck him upon the head, and gave him a mortal blow; of which blow the said Richard Gerrat languished until the 18th Dec. then next following, on which day he from the same blow died. And so the said Richard Lewes did the aforesaid Richard Gerrat feloniously kill and murder. And that the said Richard Lewes did, immediately after the said felony, make flight. In testimony whereof, we the said Jurors have to this Inquisition severally affixed our seals the day and year above said."

I find no record of the declared murderer being afterwards taken and tried for the felony; very likely, in the then imperfect state of the criminal law, and the difficulty of communication between town and town, he got away altogether and was never heard of more.

T. RUGGERS.

Notes.

[653] THE CHESHIRE SHERIFFALTY:

And how its State was maintained during a great part of the last Century.

It is quite clear that the office will lose nothing of its dignity during the present year; it had, however, early in the last century evidently become a pecuniary burden, to relieve which an ASSOCIATION was formed, and Articles entered into, of which the following is the substance:—

At the head is a well-executed wood-cut, in the Bewick style, of a mansion in ruins which a gentleman, sitting under a tree, is sketching—a companion near is reclining on the grass, and an attendant hound drinking at a ruined fountain. Whether any significance was intended to attach to this does not appear.

The Articles are entitled "for regulating and reducing the expense attending the office of SHERIFF of the County Palatine of Chester." They provide thus:—

1. The Sheriff shall not for the future keep any house or table during the Assizes, or be at any expense in entertaining or treating the gentlemen of the Grand Jury, the Counsel, or any other gentlemen that happen to be at the Assizes.
2. No entertainment of any kind to be provided for the javelin men or trumpeters, or their horses; but they should have in lieu thereof certain allowances, viz.:—
3. Each javelin man to have "a blue surtoote coat of cloth, or plain faced with red, and a red cape, and trimmed with red Jacks, and the buttons to be brass, and each of them with a laced hat and a strong javelin." The Trumpeters to have "proper coats, and laced hats, with trumpets, and banners for the same; upon which banners shall be painted or imprinted the Castle of Chester on the one side, and the Arms of the County Palatine of Chester on the other side."
4. To provide the above coats, &c., a subscription was to be raised, out of which fund, the coats, &c., were to be repaired and renewed. They were to be "lodged in the hands of some person at Chester, to be pitched upon for that purpose" to be called "the steward." They were not to be used "for any other occasion than to attend the Judges and Sheriff." "Each Sheriff (being a subscriber) instead of repairing and amending the damage done in his year to the coats," &c., was to pay five guineas to the treasurer.
5. The steward, at the Sheriff's request, was to provide twenty persons, including trumpeters, to be javelin men ("which shall be decent and handsome") to meet the Judges, for which each was to be allowed, not exceeding 25s. "at each Assizes for the whole attendance, and 2s. 6d. per diem to each of them as shall be obliged to be on horse back, for each day that they shall attend on horseback." These charges to be paid by the Sheriff to the steward; "and this expense is to be eased when the funds will allow it."
6. The Sheriff (being a subscriber) was to pay the steward £3 8s. for his fee; "but when a non-subscriber is Sheriff, he is to have no salary." The steward to enter into a bond in £200 for the safe custody of the coats, hats, &c., &c.
7. "In order to set on foot this undertaking" "a person shall be appointed to solicit, collect, and receive the subscriptions, and to purchase coats, hats, javelins, trumpets, and banners." "After this undertaking is set on foot it is hoped that some proper gentleman of the County, that is a

subscriber, may be pitched upon by a majority of the subscribers, who will without any salary or wages" keep all accounts, &c.

8. The subscription to be £5 5s.
9. No admission to be whilst the office was vacant by death.
10. "Any person now an infant, or hereafter to be born," might (except when the office was vacant by death) become a member on paying the subscription within 6 months after attaining majority.
11. Any person qualified to serve who did not subscribe before the 1st November then next, might be admitted on payment of 10 guineas.
12. No person, after the last day of October then next, to be admitted after being pricked Sheriff, unless he paid £50. "And to avoid inconveniences that may arise on this head by private intelligence or a previous knowledge who will be appointed Sheriff," it was agreed that no person should be admitted between the last day of October and the 12th of February, except on payment of £50.
13. The coats, hats, &c., were not to be used by any but a subscribing Sheriff.
14. No subscriber was to fit or furnish out any jargon or serving man for any Sheriff not a subscriber, "or be at any expense on the account."
15. A Book of Accounts to be kept by the Treasurer and exhibited to the Sheriff (being a subscriber), at every Assizes. The book to be signed by such Sheriff.
- 17 and 18. Regulations as to investing funds.
19. "In order to prevent any Sheriff being neglected or wanting company during the Assizes, the subscribers hereunto agree, that when they are at the Assizes they will dine and sup as often as they conveniently can along with the Sheriff at some Ordinary or other convenient Place, at their own expense."
20. Five subscribers to be a Committee.
21. Power to add to or alter articles.

Subscribed 6th April, 18 Geo. 2., 1745.

Then follow "the Names of those Gentlemen who have subscribed the Articles," "in the order of their subscribing the same, from Candlemas Day, A.D. 1745, to 13th day of September, 1773." The list, however, is continued in MS. down to 22nd April, 1778, when it was subscribed by a relative of the writer, and attested by "J. Derbishire, Steward." It appears to contain the names of all the gentlemen of any standing or property in the county who would be eligible for the office. There are 205 names attached.

B. LL. V.

[654] CATHERALL'S SERMON ON LADY VISCOUNTESS CHOLMONDELEY, 1692.

Amongst my Cheshire sermons I possess a copy of an interesting discourse preached at Malpas in 1692 by the Rev. SAMUEL CATHERALL, Rector of TILSTON, for whom see Ormerod, old ed., ii. 383. The sermon is thus entitled:—

"A Sermon Preach'd at the funeral of the Right Honourable, The Lady Viscountess, Dowager, Cholmondeley: At Malpas in Cheshire, on the Last Day of February, 1694. By Samuel Catherall, M.A. and Chaplain to the Right Honourable Hugh, Lord Viscount Cholmondeley.

London, Printed for Robert Clavell at the Peacock in St. Pauls-Church-Yard. 4to, pp. iv., 26.

This lady, as I make out from Burke's *Peerage* and a skeleton Pedigree and Notes drawn up by Mr. THOMAS HUGHES, was ELIZABETH CRADOCK, daughter and co-heir of George Cradock, of Caverswell Castle, county Stafford, Esq.; her husband, who had died in 1681, being the first VISCOUNT CHOLMONDELEY of Kells or Kellis (created 29th March, 1661). His paternal grandmother, wife of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, was called by James I. "the bold lady of Cheshire," in reference to a law suit in which she was engaged for forty years. Of the Dowager LADY CHOLMONDELEY, Catherall says that there needed

"no other considerations to recommend and perpetuate her memory than the Merits of her Life; it being hardly possible to think the World should forget so great a Good, as long as any sense of Pity or Gratitude continues in it."

The text is Numb. xxij. 10; and the subject, a good life the prelude to a happy death. The argument is gravely and logically sustained, and is by no means an unfavourable specimen of pulpit eloquence. On page 16 he thus speaks:—

"But while I am thus endeavouring to set before your eyes a Scheme of Holy Living and Dying, a more advantageous and inviting Prospect of both must, I am sensible, entertain and present itself to the thoughts of all those that are come hither to Celebrate the Memory and merits of this Great and Honourable Persons Life, as well as attend the Melancholy Solemnities of her Funeral. For this indeed is what at once justifies and recommends the use of Preaching on these occasions, when the Shining Virtues of the Deceased are sufficient to make the clearest comment upon the text; and when the Exemplary Life of the Dead survives, and yet speaks, as the best proof of the Preachers Doctrin: Otherwise indeed a Funeral Sermon would in a Literal sense be no more than the Dead burying their Dead! And a funeral Sermon, instead of speaking well of the Dead, might pass for little better than a satyr both upon the Dead and Living. But whatever, as a motive to our Living well, has been here said of the Death of the Righteous, makes but a faint description of this no less good than great person, who most certainly liv'd so as to dye one of that blessed Number. And by so living and dying has indeed left behind her to Posterity such a Legacy and stock of virtues as few have equal'd, but all, I am sure, are concern'd to imitate and commend."

The preacher asserts that he does not in all this use the language of flattery. He then commends the lady's

Christian virtues as a single person, as the Mistress of a great and noble family, as the happy mother of children; in the state of widowhood, and in her friendships and correspondence.

The discourse is dedicated "to the Honourable Madam Egerton, only daughter of the Right Honourable the Lady, Viscountess Cholmondeley, &c." She was the second of three wives of JOHN EGERTON of Egerton and Oulton, Esq. His first wife was Mary, one of the daughters of Thomas Cholmondeley, of Vale Royal, Esq., which lady was second cousin to MADAM EGERTON above-named. JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

Queries.

[655] WHYTEHALL, AND BLACKHALL.

In the time of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth there were two mansions in or near Chester bearing the above names. Where were these houses situate, and is anything known of their builders or owners? H. S. A.

[656] PARAGATE.

A summer or two ago, I disported for a day on the shore at this somewhat *passed* watering-place. There isn't very much, save a long straggling street, and an infinity of sand, to see in this rather out-of-the-world spot: but as I rambled along the shore to seaward, I came upon a quaint looking cottage (but, I might almost have called it) perched on a little hillock at the west end of the village, which arrested my womanly curiosity. A ragged little fisher-boy told me it was called the "castle," but didn't know why. I may perhaps have better luck if I enquire in *THE SHEAF*,—What is known of this picturesque little hovel?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[657] THE MISE OF CHESHIRE.

In a recent number of *THE SHEAF* (No. 498. Feb. 5) there was a Document printed relating to the MISE OF CHESHIRE. What was the purpose of this imposition on the county palatine; and when was the tax last collected? Y. O. M.

Replies.

[658] THE HERMIT NUN OF NORTON.

[No. 491.—Jan. 29.]

I rejoice to be able, more by luck perhaps than cunning, to offer the following reply to the query of your fair correspondent LUCY D. T., whose contributions to *THE SHEAF* are always "to the manner born."

Were the original chronicle of NORTON PRIORY now in existence and available, I have no doubt we should glean some interesting details about the HERMIT NUN referred to in the query. All I can say now is that I have recently found the following particulars relating to the fair recluse in question, who appears from her name to have belonged to a good Cheshire or Lancashire family.

The first known trace of her is in the year 1493, long prior to which we glean that she had been a Nun at NORTON PRIORY, and that her name was AGNES BOTHE, *alias* SCHERPAED. In the year named she had by her sanctity or family influence gained the ear of the then Bishop of Lichfield, William Smith, a native of Lancashire; and from him she obtained a licence of removal to a cell near the Chapel of Pilling, belonging to the Abbey of Cockersand, in that county. I will append a translation of Bishop Smith's licence, which is well worth placing upon available record:—

"William, by divine permission Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to his beloved brethren in Christ the Lord Abbot of the house of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Cockersand, and to the convent at the same place, brotherly salutation and charity in the name of the Lord. Whereas that holy woman, the Lady AGNES BOTHE, *alias* Shepherd, of the nunnery or priory of the Blessed Virgin Mary of NORTON, inflamed by the zeal of her deeply religious feelings, is very desirous of being separated from the intercourse of men, and especially wishful to be kept from the delights of an enervated age, and to pass a lonely life near the Chapel of Pilling in the parish of Garstang in our diocese, and there to be immured that she may be able to render a careful and devoted servitude to the Most High; and whereas she has indeed for a long time persevered in this happy plan of hers with unchanging vigour of mind, as she still does at this present. We, however, while we approve of this praiseworthy wish of the nun herself, and hope that the aforesaid stay there of the Lady Agnes may not only be pleasing to our Most High God, but also have added no small portion to her life who has so deserved it, Therefore we enjoin upon your brotherhood, under the protection of our seal in that regard, that you confine the said Lady AGNES BOTHE, otherwise Shepherd, in the house or cell there set apart for that purpose; and to perform, superintend, and carry out all and singular the requirements usual under similar circumstances, whether by law or praiseworthy custom. Given in our manor of Beaudesart, under our seal, Nov. 20, 1493, and in the 2nd year of our consecration."

This document put our lady recluse in full possession of her new anachorite home at Pilling; and eight years afterwards we find from the *Rentals de Cockersand*, 1501 (Chetham Society, vol. 57, pp. 29-30; vol. 104, p. 106), that she was still alive and there interned. The entry in the *Rental* runs thus:—

"M'd yat Annes Schep'te hasee payne to James ye Abbott of Cockersand for her lyuing, ijs. ijd. to me, & vjs. viiijd. to ye Covent."

Why, remarks that ripe scholar, the late Rev. CANON RAINES, this devout nun abandoned NORTON PRIORY for the quiet little cell at Pilling Chapel "will perhaps never be known; but it may be conjectured that it was with the hope of attaining higher degrees of sanctity than she found to be within her reach amongst the sisterhood of NORTON." G. T.

[659] ASSIZE SERMON IN CHESTER, 1784.
[No. 502.—Feb. 5.]

The Rev. GEORGE VANBRUGH, B.A., was elected a Minor Canon of CHESTER CATHEDRAL in July, 1780, in the room of the Rev. Thomas Broadhurst, who resigned that office. In November, 1782, he was admitted by the University of Cambridge to the Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, at which time he held the appointment of Chaplain to the Right Hon. Viscount Bulkeley. In August, 1790, he resigned the minor canonry, being then rector of AUGHTON in Lancashire, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Mawdesley. In October, 1825, he was installed into the Prebendal Stall of Timberscombe in WELLS Cathedral, to which he was collated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

He was married in St. Oswald's Church, Chester, on the 23rd of February, 1789, to Frances Ravenscroft, of that parish.

Ledsham.

R. M.

[660] UNDERGROUND PASSAGES OF CHESTER.
[Nos. 540, 640.—Feb. 26, April 30.]

Let me refer your correspondent J. H. to vol. 3 of the *Transactions of the CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY*, pp. 76 et seq., for a full description of these curious excavations; and the ground for believing (as suggested by E. F.) they formed a portion of the system for carrying off the drainage from the Roman DEVA into the River, as in the parallel instance of Ancient Rome, where the Cloaca Maxima terminated in the Tiber. The places of outfall into the Dee were probably thus described by Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, written in the last century:—"The ancient subterraneous canals are perfect still; their outlets into the river under the City Walls are visible; and they say that they are so high that a man may walk upright their whole length." Is the site of these outlets now known?

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[661] THE CURFEW.
[No. 571, 601.—March 19, April 2.]

The Rev. EDWARD HINCHLIFFE, in his work on *Barthomley Parish*, states (p. 89) that the CURFEW is tolled there from Michaelmas to Lady Day at eight. After the big bell has tolled 'the knell of parting day' the little bell counts out the day of the month.

In addition to the CURFEW, another bell is tolled annually at BARTHOMLEY on Shrove Tuesday—very

significantly denominated, in this neighbourhood, *Guttit Tuesday*—at 11 o'clock, to tell the housewives to fry their pancakes (p. 40).

Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

[662] THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.
[Nos. 588, 612, 629.—March 26, April 9, 23.]

In reply to A. R.'s letter, I remember MR. HARRISON well, for he was a bosom friend of my family, also his biographer, the late Mr. HEMINGWAY, our local historian, who was intimately acquainted with him for years. The only remark of my own not taken from this Historian in the reply I sent to you was, that "the Ruthin School boys subscribed to the Jubilee Column, and that it was a local affair." My two eldest brothers, who were then at Ruthin Grammar School, subscribed to it; and A. R. does not prove that it was not a local affair from his quoted list of subscribers, who hailed from Denbighshire and Flintshire, none from Cheshire. "De mortuis nil nisi bonum." I believe in Hemingway, who finished his *History of Chester* in 1831, in preference to any other writer subsequently.

VERITAS.

MAY 21, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MAY 22.—Sir George Booth, of Dunham Massey, Kt., created Baronet 1611
,, 24.—Henry W. Majendie nominated 25th Bishop of Chester..... 1800
J. H.

Original Documents.

[663] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS,
No. VI.

Taking up the thread of the historic story revealed in the series of Lieutenantcy Letters preserved at OULTON PARK, we see that the INVASION SCARE was still agitating both the royal and local authorities. The Documents we print to-day refer to the movement and massing of Troops belonging to the County Palatine, and give us some idea of the activity pervading our local officials at a threatening juncture.

"To our very good Lord the
Earle of Darby, Lord
Leiveten't of the County
Palatine of CHESTER.

"After our very hearty Comendac'ons to yo'r
Lo'pp. Whereas wee have reason to beleive, by the

great preparac'ons of his Ma'ties enemies, that they intend speedily to invade this Kingdome. These are therefore in his Ma'ties name, And by his Expresses Command in Councell to require you to give Speedy and Effectuall Order to your Deputy Leivetenants and the respective officers vnder [you] forthwith to drawe out of every Troope of Militia horse of [the] County one fourth part of the full Number of each troope [for] the p'sent defence of the Kingdome. And that you forthwith [send] away those men, If they exceed not Twenty, by a Corporal; If above twenty, and exceed not thirty, by a Quarter Master; If [over] Thirty, by a Leivetenant, vnto Northampton, Where shall [be] further Orders. And that you give Order to each trooper to [take] with him one Months pay. And Likewise that you forthwith [send] up vnto vs a true and p'fect List of all your County militia. And hereof you may not faile as you tender his Ma'ties ser[vice] and the safety of the Kingdome. And soe wee bid you hartly farewell. ffrom the Court at Whitehall this first day of July, 1668.

Yo'r Lo'p's very louing freinds

E. MANCHESTER	C. CRAVEN
CARLILE	MIDDLETON
JOHN BEEKLEY	WM. MORICE
G. CARTERET	W. COVENTRY
HOLLES	RICHARD [B. . .]

"My Lord and Gentlemen,

By the inclosed you will vnderstand the necessity of a speedy meeting for the putting in Execu'on his Ma'ties Com'ands. ffor which purpose I desire you to meet mee at Northwich vpon Tuesday the 10th Instant by foure a Clocke in the Afternoone, And Likewise that all the ffeild officers and Capt's may receave Notice from you to observe the time and place aforesaid. With the tender of my hearty respects vnto you, I remain

My Lord and Gent'n,
Yo'r very Aff'tt freind
and Servant

DERBY.

Lathom, 8th July,
1668.

To the Right Honnor'ble the L'd Cholmondeley and the rest of Deputy Leivetenants within the County Pallatine of Chester."

The Meeting referred to was accordingly held, and as a result the following Order was issued to Col. Sir Philip Egerton, Knight, one of the "ffield officers" referred to in the preceding letter:—

"S'r,

You are to bee w'th yo'r Troope at Middlewich vpon fridday the 13th Instant by tenn a Clocke in the Morning. And you are to give Strict Command that every Soldier doe appeare Compleatly Armed, And bring with him one Months pay, halfe a pound of powder, and halfe a pound of Bullett. And for Soe doing this shall be your Warrant. Given vnder my hand at Northwich the 10th of July, Anno dom' 1668.

DERBY.

To S'r Philip Egerton, K't,
Leiveten't Coll' and Capt.
of a Troope of horse
w'thin the Countie Pall' of
Chester."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[664] THE REV. THOMAS BRANCKER, M.A., OF
WHITEGATE AND MACCLESFIELD.

On rearranging my collection of quartos lately I came across a work by the above writer, thus entitled:—

"An introduction to Algebra, Translated out of the High-Dutch into English, By THOMAS BRANCKER, M.A. Much Altered and Augmented by D. P. Also a Table of Odd Numbers, less than One Hundred Thousand, showing Those that are Incomposit, And Resolving the rest into their Factors or Coefficients, &c. Supputated by the same THO. BRANCKER. London, Printed by W. G. for Moses Pitt at the White-Hart in Little Britain. 1668." 4to. pp. viii, 198, 50; plates.

From the translator's preface we learn that the original of this work was published at Frankfort, in Germany, 1659, 4to, in High Dutch, being the *Algebra* of Rhonius. A friend, one Mr. F. T., in 1662, gave Brancker a copy of the German work, telling him that he much desired to read it in some language that he understood, whereupon Brancker promised "to English it." It was prepared and licensed May 18, 1665. A little while later Brancker heard that there was then in London "a person of note, very worthy to be made acquainted with my design." He is called in the margin "D. J. P., i.e. Dr. John Pell, an able English mathematician, 1610-1685. This is the person who is, in consequence of the help which followed an introduction, named on Brancker's title-page. Pell's additions begin at p. 100, and extend to the end. The preface is dated April 22, 1668, from WHITEGATE, in Edisbury Hundred, Cheshire. John Collins, the mathematician, was instrumental in furthering this book. (See *Biog. Brit.*, pt. ii, vol. vii, p. 38, and note C.; and another note, G. in vol. v. of the same work, p. 3315, on the intercourse of Pell and Brancker). A letter from Collins to James Gregory, in 1668, thus refers to the *Algebra*:—

"One Henry Rhonius published an Algebra in High Dutch. He was Dr. John Pell's scholar; the book is translated into English, refined by the Doctor, and almost out of the press; I hope to send you one of them, but therein are not contained some of his chiefest inventions in Algebra."—*Correspondence of Scientific Men*, Oxford, 1841, vol. ii. 177.

The table of Incomposits of Brancker has been reprinted with his preface, pp. 353-416 of *The Doctrine of Permutations and Combinations*, by Mr. James Bernoulli, together with some other useful Mathem. Tracts. Publ. by Francis Maseres, Esq., Curator Baron of the Court of Exchequer, Lond., 1795, 8vo. Maseres, in his preface says, p. vii. :—

"This Table of Prime Numbers Dr. Wallis sets a high value on, inasmuch that he took the pains to examine it carefully throughout, and to correct the few errors that he found in it, so that now, with his corrections, it may be considered as very accurate. This Table therefore, together with the Appendix in which it is contained, I have here caused to be reprinted immediately after the foregoing Discourse of Dr. Wallis."

From the pedigree of Brancker of Bispham Hall, co. Lancaster, in Foster's *Lancashire Pedigrees*, it seems that Thomas Brancker was of the same family as Sir William Brouncker, the mathematician and the first President of the Royal Society, who died in 1684, and who was Pepys's acquaintance and correspondent. The family descended from Henry Brouncker, who in 1544 bought land at Melksham (then called Melksham-Bruncker), in Wilts; and in the adjoining church of Earlstoke are their arms, thus engraved in Aubrey's *Wills*: Ar., six pellets in pale, three and three; on a chief embattled sable a losenge of the first charged with a cross patée of the second (pp. 298, seq.); which coat is still used by the Bispham Branckers. Of the son of this Henry, Sir Henry Brouncker, Lord President of Munster, Pepys said that he gave £1,200 to be made an Irish lord, "and swore the same day that he had not 12d. left to pay for his dinner" (*Diary*, last ed. iv. 277.)

The elder sons of Henry were the titled Brounckers; but a younger son, called in the pedigree "Brouncker" only, was the father of Thomas Brouncker, B.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, and of Ilminster, Somerset. Speaking of his son, the subject of the present notes, Anthony à Wood (*Athenæ Oxon.* iij. 1086-7) says that he was "born in Devonshire," and admitted battler of Exeter College, Nov. 8, 1652, aged seventeen years or thereabouts. The locality and age are rather vague; but, according to Carlisle's *Endowed Schools*, i. 242, there was a Thomas Branker who was the master of Barnstaple Grammar School about the year 1630, and he seems to be the elder Brancker. We meet with the same person, called "a very laborious and learned schoolmaster, in the neighbourhood" of Lymington, near Ilchester, Somersetshire, who had under his care John Conant the divine, whose uncle of the same name, the member of the Assembly of Divines, was Rector of Lymington. As the former Conant went to Exeter College, Oxford, in 1626, Brancker must have been schoolmaster near Ilchester before going to Barnstaple. Furnished with these dates and facts, Mr. Wainwright, the present obliging master of Barnstaple Grammar School, has been good enough to search out the

following entry from the parish register of that town, under date of August, 1633 :—

"Thomas the sonne of Mr. Thomas Branker scholemaster of the High Schole was bapt. the 25th day ann, p'd."

We thus get a more precise date of birth than is given by a Wood and Foster. Wood further informs us that Brancker was B.A. June 15, 1655, and was elected Fellow of his college five days after. He was one of many well-known pupils of the chemist and Rosicrucian, Peter Sthael of Strasburg, whom Robert Boyle had introduced into the university. Under this teacher Brancker developed his genius in the chemical and mathematical sciences. Anthony Wood was a fellow-student; but he resisted the charms of those pursuits, his mind being bent on antiquities and music.

(To be completed next week.)

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

Queries.

[665]

Mrs. DOROTHY LEIGH.

I have before me a curious little book with the following title :—"The Mother's Blessing : or The Godly Counsell of a Gentle-woman, not long since deceased, left behind her for her children. Containing many good exhortations and good admonitions profitable for all Parents, to leave as a Legacie to their children. By Mrs. Dorothy Leigh. Proverbs i. 8—*My son, heare the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.* London, Printed for Robert Allot, and are to be sold at his Shop, at the blacke Beare in Paul's Churchyard, . . . 1634." 24mo., 271 pp.

I have in my library another edition :—"London, Printed by S. and B. G., for Andrew Crook, 1674. 16mo. 154 pp.

Who was Mr. Dorothy Leigh, and what is the date of the first edition of her little book ?

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

Replies.

[666]

CHESTER CATHEDRAL TAPESTRY.

[Nos. 186, 256.—July 31, Sept. 11.]

"No one knows whence it came, or where it was woven." So it is stated in No. 256 of THE SHEAF.

From the description, border, and size, I think it not at all improbable that it was manufactured in DUBLIN towards the close of the 17th Century. At that time, and

for some years after, there was a celebrated manufactory for Tapestry in the Liberty of Dublin, carried on by the Huguenots; and the intercourse between Chester and Dublin was continuous, many Cheshire persons or others connected therewith being then resident in Dublin. I may mention amongst others Dr. Parry, Bishop of Killaloe, his two sons respectively in succession Bishops of Ossory, and for some time Deans of St. Patrick's or Christ Church, Dublin; the Rt. Honble, Benjamin Parry, Chancellor of the Exchequer in Ireland, and several members of the Price family, subsequently owners of the Abbey and Priory of BIRKENHEAD. May it not be reasonably (in the absence of any positive evidence to the contrary) conjectured that the "Elymas" of Chester Cathedral was executed in Dublin, and at the instance of some of the parties connected with Chester or Cheshire?

It may be interesting to the lovers of Tapestry, and perhaps induce some Chester gentlemen to visit, and compare them with the "Elymas," to give a short account of the two pieces of Tapestry which adorn the two sides of the Lords' Chamber in the BANK OF IRELAND, where formerly the House of Peers sat. Each piece measures 21 feet 6½ inches by 16 feet. The one on the right side represents the crossing of the Boyne, Wm. III. on horseback in the foreground, with General Schomberg on the ground, killed. There is an ornamental border round the piece with four medallions on the sides, and one at the top. The last represents William, on the one side Schomberg, opposite to him General Ginkle, Earl of Athlone. The lower medallions represent respectively the Charge of the Enniskillengers, and the Siege of Drogheda.

The Tapestry on the left side of the Chamber has the Siege of Derry, and the breaking of the Boom with James II., in the foreground, on horseback; on the Border and at the Top, medallions like as on the other piece; on the top, the Rev. Dr. Walker, Governor of Derry; on the sides, Major Baker and the "Captain of ye Dartmouth," with two medallions respectively underneath. Under the centre of this piece is a medallion of the arms of Derry.

These two pieces of tapestry were taken down last year, and sent to the manufactory established by the Princess Beatrice at Windsor for repairs. During the last month they have been replaced, and are well worthy of an inspection. It is stated by the gentleman who came over from Windsor to have them taken down that they are of very great value. On taking them down an inscription was found on them, viz.:—"John Vanbeaver f."—put up by Robert Baillie, 1733." On reference to a collection of records in the Round Tower at Dublin Castle, Carton 2625, is found the following:—"Memorial, 4. Feb. 1728. From Robert Baillie, upholder, for a sum of £300 [on account evidently] for preparing Tapestry for the new house of Lords."

There is at present in the silk and tabinet establishment of the late Alderman Atkinson in College Green, opposite the Bank of Ireland, a very handsome portrait of George II. in the same tapestry, in a richly gilt frame, on which is the following inscription:—"The workmanship of John Vanbeaver, Ye famous Tapestry weaver."

This formerly belonged to the Guild of Weavers in Dublin, and was purchased by Alderman Atkinson at the dissolution of the Guild. He informed me that the value was 250 guineas. I have also in my possession one of the same manufacture—representing one of the Lord Lieutenants of this country, but I have not been able to ascertain whether it is the portrait of the Duke of Dorset or Lord Carteret.

Dublin, May, 1879.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[667]

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.

[No. 350.—Nov. 6, 1878.]

My attention has been drawn to the assertion of your correspondent of the existence "formerly of two recumbent figures of Crusaders, members of the ancient family of Moreton, in Astbury Church, which it is alleged were removed during the renovation of the interior about twenty years ago. It at once occurred to me that even if the Moretons, at the very early period indicated, had been of an eminence that rendered it likely that evidence of any kind had once been in existence of any member having been in the Crusades (to say nothing of two members), it was very probable that a gentleman like the late Rector of Astbury (who had contributed at his own cost and by his own exertions so much to the beautifying of that church) would be the very last to "remove entirely" from the edifice two such highly interesting and rare memorials. But although in no history I have ever read, ancient or modern, relating to the family, or to a church so conspicuous in the county, is there even fourth-rate evidence of the existence at any time of such monuments, or of any member of the family having been a Crusader, I was not altogether prepared for an exaggeration so gross as that which has, I am quite sure, by some inadvertence of the writer, crept into your columns. It appears that instead of two such extremely ancient effigies of Crusaders, the monument referred to was beyond a doubt "a monumental erection nearly square, about 4ft. high, which stood in the eastern end of the north aisle in 1859, and occupied part of the altar space (of which a portion of the steps remained), and was covered with two marble slabs, with some names of the Moreton family inscribed" upon them. Permission had been given to remove this not very ornamental, and certainly very awkwardly situated, erection, and the slabs were accordingly placed on the floor "*immediately below*, where they now rest;" the broken altar steps were also removed, and the space converted into a vestry: the old reredos (of the same date as the pews) forming now part of the wooden

casing of the eastern wall. To this may be added, that if there ever was, as is possible enough, a Moreton Chapel or chantry, there does not appear to be anything pointing to its existence, beyond the fact of the Moretons and their modern representatives having (at all events during the last couple of centuries) a place of sepulture and seats at the eastern end of the church.

S. S.

[668] WILLIAM THROP, BOOKSELLER IN CHESTER, 1658.

[Nos. 890, 626, 648, 651.—Nov. 27, April 23, May 7.]

From my family papers and pedigree I find that WILLIAM THROP, or Thorpe, stationer, of Chester, was as Mr. HUGHES supposes, the son of RICHARD THROP of Chester (by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Major, of Lichborow, in the county of Northampton), having been born in 1639. But his father Richard was also a Chester man, being the grandson of William Throp, Sheriff (or, as it is given in an old pedigree, Shireeve) of Chester in 1597, brother to Thomas Throp, Vintner, Mayor of Chester in 1615, the father of the more celebrated THOMAS THROP, Mayor in 1637 and 1661, of whom Mr. HUGHES has already given an account in No. 111. WILLIAM THROP was therefore only 18 when admitted a Brother of the Guild of Stationers in 1657. He died in 1675. The family at that time were much impoverished by the fines imposed upon them for the part they played in the Civil War on the side of the King. JOHN, the brother of William, settled at Wilmalow, in Cheshire, and was the ancestor of the Quaker branch of my family, who lived there from 1660 to 1760. I have been able to collect a good deal of information about the Chester Throps, and fuller particulars of Captain and Alderman Throp, to supplement Mr. HUGHES' memoir, and hope to be able to publish it shortly in THE SHEAF. Meanwhile I shall be much obliged if anyone can furnish any details concerning their Wills, or any records of the earlier generations of the family: Thomas Throp, grandfather of the Captain, was buried at St. Michael's in 1599, and beyond him I know nothing. A Ralph Thropp was Sheriff of Chester in 1371, but there is no evidence at present to show the descent of the Throps who flourished at Chester in the 17th century from him.

Macolesfield.

J. W. H. THROP.

[669] ANSTIL OR HANDSEL.

[Nos. 564, 590.—March 12, 26.]

I think there need be no doubt as to the correctness of the explanation given by "LANDWOR" in THE SHEAF (590) of this word, i.e., Hand and Syllan, to give, to sell. And again (Teut.) the FIRST PART sold. The addition "of first in the morning," I take as a divergence only from the primitive meaning. Taking the

Saxon sense of the word, "to give," we find a custom exactly agreeing thereto, even to this day, viz., the giving of the hand in token of assent of the heart, an agreement or handsale. "Hold out your hand," says the seller, "and you shall have it." This is the token of the preliminary of a bargain (again agreeing with the Teut. meaning), "the first part sold," or, as I would take it, the *first part of the sale*, an equivalent to a "deposit," an "Earles" or "Arles-penny," an earnest-penny; but, as I think, a custom of a much earlier origin. I think this has been a kind of a pledge of honour from time immemorial even to this day, for we read, "though hand join in hand," &c., more properly, "hand meet hand," or "hand to hand," that is, "agree."

It will be perceived from this that I do not take "Handsel" to be *the first of a series of sales*, or the word used often only as expressive of good luck; but as an honourable acknowledgment of a bargain made, an agreement. An "oath by salt" of the Arabs.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[670] MALPAS CHURCH JOTTINGS.

[No. 646.—May 7.]

If the Oulton Wine Cooler could, like Cunningham's "Velvet Cushion," write its own history, it would doubtless make some interesting revelations: its first entrance, however, into the Church was not at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury—it was translated there from the little old chapel of ST. CHAD'S, TUSHINGHAM, where it had been placed by the Rectors of MALPAS, in substitution for an old stone Font, originally belonging to the parish Church,—and by them reinstated. The writer remembers this old Font in ST. CHAD'S (Malpas), 60 years ago. When it was originally turned out of the Parish Church it would be interesting to know—perhaps W. T. K. can kindly tell. Was it for the Wine Cooler, or what was the substitute? And why was ST. CHAD'S, SHREWSBURY, preferred to ST. CHAD'S, TUSHINGHAM, for the honor of the marble? As it would be obvious that the latter could not be left without a Font, I may add that it was presented with one (and which is now there), the pedestal of which has been an old carved oak bed post!

That Fonts have met with strange vicissitudes there is no doubt. For years there was an old Font built into the wall of the Holyhead Road between Corwen and Cerrig-y-druidion, serving as a fountain for the refreshment of travellers—(it may be there now),—and at the same period, at the hotel at Capel Curig, was another dedicated to the filthy purpose of a receptacle for pig wash! The writer has repeatedly seen both these as described; the latter has long, however, disappeared, and it is to be hoped has been restored to its proper place and use.

B. LL. V.

MAY 28, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

MAY 28.—Chester Theatre Royal established by Letters Patent	1777
„ 29.—Robert Dorset, 7th Dean of Chester, died	1580
„ 30.—William Cliff installed 3rd Dean of Chester	1547
„ 31.—Lord Mountjoy with his prisoner, Earl Tyrone, arrived at Chester	1602
JUNE 1.—Reginald Heber consecrated Bishop of Calcutta	1823
„ 2.—William Falconer, Recorder of Chester, died	1784
„ 3.—Robert, Earl of Leicester, with his retinue, at Chester	1583
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[671] CHESTER STREETS IN TIME OF EDWARD III.

Among the first documents entered in the earliest of the Assembly Books of the Chester Corporation is one describing the streets and lanes of the city as they existed in the 13th century. This MS. was printed, but so imperfectly, in the first volume of Hemingway's *Chester*, pp. 401-4, that I venture to give it *verbatim et literatim* in *THE SHEAF*, just as it stands in the original record:—

“Here After foloweth the names of All the STREETS and LANES within the Citie of CHESTER and suburbes of the Same, as the wer named in the dayes of Kinge Edward ye thirdd and afore, by the Recorde thereof in wrytinge, in A table, and copied herin by the Com'andme't of the Worshipfull RICHARD DUTTON, Maior of the Saide Citie.

IN ESTGATE STREET.

On the northe syde of the said strete is a Layne that goithe out of the said strete, By the mease side late William Stanmer, and so into the Kirke yorde of sante Oswaldes, caulyd Leen Lane. And Beneathe it, upon the same syde, nere the Estgate, is a Layne caulyd sant goddestall Lane, and so goithe out of the Sade strete into the Sade church yarde. This Goddestall lieth Buried within the abbay Churche in Chester, and he was An Emperoure and a vertuose disposed man in his Lynynge, and his Lane Lyethe betwene the mease som tymes of Robert Chamb'leyn, and the mease lat in tholdinge of Will'm Humfrey; and vppon the syde nere the eastgate ther ys A Lane caulyd saint Werburge Lane and it Shoutythe into the forsaide church yarde, and ouer Anendes this Lane on the other Syde ys A Lane caulyd Fleshamongers Lane, And it puttethe vpon peper stret.

IN FYORGATE STRETE,

Ther is a Lane vpon the north Side Sometyme caulld Cooles Lane, and now caulld Cow-lane, and it stettithe into Honwalds Lowe. And nere the Barres vpon the South syde ther is A Lane named Loue Lane, And it putteth vpon Bark's Lane that goith Eastwards into the fildes; and without the Barres Ther ys A gayte that goythe downe to the water of Dee, that is namyd Paynes Looode, And vpon the other Syde of the Sayde strete more estward is A Lane called Chester Lane, and it puttith vpon Honwards Lowe.

IN SENT JOHANS STREET,

Is Sant Johns Lane, that goithe oute of this strete towards the churche and Collage, and from it at the cornill of the mansion place of the petite chanon ther is a Lane After the wall of the church yarde, and it is naymed the vicars Lane, and it puttith vpon Barkers Lane and Loue Lane; and at the Eynde of this strete Ther goythe a waye downe to the water of Dee, and this Sayde waye is naymyd the Souters Looode.”

The Lane in Eastgate-street, which HEMINGWAY carelessly printed *Peen Lane*, unquestionably reads *Leen Lane* in the original. And an appropriate name it thus bore, for it leaned considerably, running at a sharpe incline by the end of the ancient BUTTERSHOPS, up from Eastgate-street to St. Oswald's churchyard.

CHESTER LANE, running out of Foregate-street, north-westward, was afterwards better known as *Hors Lane*, an appellation it only lost early in the present century.

T. HUGHES.

To be continued.

Notes.

[672] THE LOTTERY OF MARRIAGE.

In the last *SHEAF* allusion was made to old sermons. I met with an extract of one in *Whitney's Emblems*, preached for a wedding, by Dr. Chatterton, Bishop of Chester, in 1579:—

“The Doctor used this merry comparison: ‘The choice of a wife is full of hazard, not unlike to a man groping for one fish in a barrel full of serpents. If he scape harm of the snakes and light on the fish, he may be thought fortunate; yet let him not boast, for perhaps it may be but an eel.’”

P.S.—Chatterton (or Chaderton) was translated to Lincoln in 1594.

Newton.

H.

[673] A LETTER FROM CHESTER IN 1760.

CHARITY SCHOOL FOR JOCKEYS.

The following letter (extracted from an amusing little volume by Mr. Samuel Derrick, Master of the Ceremonies at Bath, 1776-7,) may interest some of the readers of *THE SHEAF*:—

"To the Right Hon. Lord Southwell,
Chester, July 17, 1760.

My Lord,

You have always kindly interested yourself in my welfare; and I should be assuredly unworthy of your lordship's further regard should I longer defer to give you some account of my progress since I left London.

I set off, my lord, in the flying stage, for Birmingham, and was on the road about eighteen hours, the best part of which I slept; for the motion of the carriage, which is remarkably easy, had so little effect upon me that I slumbered all night in it, as easily as if I had been in bed.

From thence I came hither in Mr.——'s coach, who is going to Ireland on account of a law-suit.

In our way we stopped to dine at Nantwich, a well-built market town, famous for white salt and excellent cheese. While dinner was providing, we took a view of the church, which is built in form of a cross, old, large, and handsome. Many of the stalls of the monks are standing at this day, and are of oak, encumbered with a great deal of carved work; the pulpit is remarkably beautiful. Here we were shown the monument of the founder, Sir Roger de Carradoc, an ancient British knight, who was said to be immediately descended from the renowned Caractacus. It is of white marble, but much defaced by Cromwell's soldiers from whose violence nothing neat, elegant, or venerable, was saved. They were possessed of this town for a year and upwards, during which time they turned the church into a stable for their horses. There is a charge of five shillings put down in the church book, for pitch to purify the place on their departure.

We also baited at Tarporley, where there is an old church poorly ornamented, with a ring of fine bells, and some good monuments of the Crewe and Donne families. It is a rectory worth three hundred pounds a year, subservient to the Bishop of Chester.

About half a mile off, upon an eminence, which, though surrounded by hills, commands a vast tract of land, stands Beeston Castle, belonging to Sir John Glynn. It is a heap of ruins, but must have been of great extent, as the walls take up a large space of ground.

Your worship is so well acquainted with the city of Chester, that it would be ridiculous in me to give you any account; yet in this ancient city, there is an article, my lord, which you will permit me to mention, as it may probably have escaped your notice: it is a charity-school absolutely appropriated to the education of jockeys. The truth of the matter is this: there is a charity-school without the North-gate, well-endowed, having a large fund, intended by the donor to be laid out in putting the children here educated, at a certain age, to trades. Some years ago it was usual to bind them out to the tradesmen and artificers of Chester; and consequently, when out of their time they were admitted freemen, and had a right to vote in the election of members to represent the town in Parliament; but it having

often happened that many of them were too honest, or too obstinate, to receive directions in that material point from any superior but their own consciences, the practice of making them scabby rebellious tradesmen has been discontinued, and they are put out to horse-hirers and jockeys, not free of the city. This account I had from an old ill-natured fellow, who *hates* all mankind, and fattens on scandal, sarcasm, and ridicule.

We were invited a few days since, to dine at the town-hall with Sir Richard Grosvenor, who is now mayor of the city, and deservedly the darling of the people. The company consisted of near four hundred persons. There was great plenty of everything in season. The wines were good of all kinds; but the most remarkable part of the entertainment was that there were at once served up forty-two haunches of venison! Sir Richard was supported at table by the ecclesiastic and the military powers; for he sat between the Lord Bishop of Chester and Colonel Viner of the Lincolnshire Militia. As I know the clergy live well, I took up my quarters between two of the prebends, and by this, secured myself some rational conversation, as well as a comfortable dinner; an advantage, my lord, not always to be found in so large an assembly.

I am,

My Lord, &c.

Letters written from Liverpoole, Chester, Corke, &c.

London: MDCCCLXVII. Vol. 1, pp. 8-12."

P. M. HERFORD.

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

[674] MOW COP DIALECT.
(Ninth Paper.)

FIRE.—To root, to scratch, to fidget.

"Night was down upon us; yet

Father coughed and *firked* his beard;

'Twas not much—the mould was dry—

Seed was down—the team was geared."

George Heath. *The Missed Butt: A Superstition.*

GLEDES.—Glowing embers. Though quite familiar to most elderly people, this word may now be said to have gone out of use.

"Look how that fire of small *gleses*, that be almost dead under ashes, will quicken again when they be touched with brimstone; right so, ire will evermore quicken again when it is touched with pride that is covered in man's heart."

Chaucer. *C.T., The Parson's Tale*

"So followeth me remembrance of that face,
That with my teary eyen, swoln, and unstable,
My destiny to behold her doth me lead;
And yet I know I run into the *glede* (fire)."

Sir Thomas Wyatt.

KINDLE.—(Used of rabbits) To bring forth young.

"Orl.: Where dwell you, pretty youth?

Res.: With this shepherdes, my slater

here in the skirts of the forest, like fringe upon a petticoat.

Orl: Are you native of this place?

Ros.: As the coney, that you see dwell where she is *kindled*."

As you like it. III., 2.

Woss, sometimes WOSSER.—Worse. Old German, *wirser*.

So wasting love, by worke, and want,
Grew almost to the waine:

But then began a second love,
The *worser* of the twaine.

Percy's *Reliques*. Argentile and Curan.

What *worser* place can I beg in your love
(And yet a place of high respect with me),
Than to be used as you use your dog?

Midsommer Night's Dream. II., 2.

DABBLY.—Wet. "*Dabbly* weather."

FRANZY.—Irritable, ill-tempered.

HOMMAGED.—Harrassed, "messed."

OTHER.—Either. An argument having arisen as to the most approved method of pronouncing the word *either*, one person maintaining that *either* was the correct pronunciation, and the other that the pronunciation should be *ither*,—an old fellow who happened to be present wishing to compromise the dispute, and quite unconscious of the odd effect of his remark, put in—"*other*"ll do." Of course the point of the old gentleman's remark lay in the application of it.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[675] THE REV. THOMAS BRANCKER, M.A., OF
WHITEGATE AND MACCLESFIELD.

(Continued from last week.)

BRANCKER, having taken his master's degree, April 23, 1668, became a preacher; but not caring to conform in 1662, he resigned his fellowship, and retired into Cheshire. There, however, he conformed; and after ordination he became "minister" at WHITEGATE. It does not appear that he was *vicar* of that parish. In Ormerod's list there are no vicars named between Devereux Fogg, instituted Oct. 5, 1643, and John Parker, instituted about 1687 (vol. ii. 146, new ed.) While at WHITEGATE, Brancker "for his sufficiencies in mathematics and chymistry" became intimate with William, Lord Brereton, who presented him to the Rectory of TILSTON, near Malpas, and who had been one of Dr. Pell's pupils at Breda. The present rector of Tilston, in whom I recognised a schoolfellow of former days, has most obligingly copied for me from the register the following extract bearing upon Brancker:—

"Mem. That Thomas Brancker Mr. of Arts was admitted into this Rectory of Tilston whereunto he

had been instituted by ye most Reverend Richd. [Sterne] ArchB'p of York in ye vacancy of ye See of Chester [by the death of Bishop Hall] at ye Presentation of ye right Hon'ble William Lord Brereton, Sept. 11th, 1668.

By Rowland Sherrard,

Rector of Tarporley.

In presence of Francis Wright, Edw'd Wright, John Catteral, Randle Turner Junr., Tho. Ball.

John Bennion } Church-
Thomas Hanley } wardens."

Brancker did not long keep Tilston Rectory, for in 1668 he was succeeded by Samuel Catherall, A.M., Oct. 15 (*Ormerod*, old ed. ii. 333). Brancker left Tilston to become master of "the well endowed school at MACCLESFIELD," where at an early age he died, Nov. 26, 1676, after a brief illness. A monument was set up to his memory in the church perpetuating his accomplishments:—

"He was well skilled in the sacred and other languages; a lover and ornament of natural philosophy, mathematics, and chemistry, which he pursued with reputation under the auspices of the Hon. Sir Robert Boyle. The sanctity of his life was only equalled by his extraordinary courtesy: in short, he was a most accomplished man."

It is added in Foster's pedigree that Brancker married Hannah Meyrick, of Leicester, from whom are derived the Liverpool and Bispham Brankers, who used *os* in their names in place of *a*. The names of the descendants are given in the pedigree.

In the Rawlinson MSS. (A. 45, fo. 9) there is "A Breviat and relation of Thomas Branker against Dame Appollin Hall alias Appollin Potter of London, once married to William Churchey," &c. No date is given, but July, 1666, occurs in the body of the document.

Brancker wrote the following in addition to the work already named:—"Doctrina SPHÆRICÆ adumbratio: und cum usu Globorum artificialium. OXONIE: Exoudebat H. Hall, Impensis J. Adams. 1662," folio broadside. At the end of the Latin address to the reader is, "Vale T.B.," to which Ant. Wood has added in M.S., "ranker, Coll. Exon." This appears in a Wood as if it made two books (*Athen.* iii. 1067).

In Ladbroke Church, Warwickshire, is a monument which seems to belong to an uncle of Thomas Brancker. It is described in Dugdale's *Warwickshire* (ed. 1780, p. 334) thus:—"On a brass plate, the following arms: Six roundels with a crescent, on a chief oronelle, a losenge charged with a cross patee; and this inscription:

"Edwardi Brovneri memorie sacrum, S. Th. Doctoris, filii Henrici Brovneri Eq. avrati natu secvndi, et hvjvs ecclesie Rectoris dignissimi, moerens posvit Catherina soror.

Sacros Brovneri cineres hæc continet, vna,
Neo mage Divinas terra recondit opes.

At sincera Fides, pia mærs, prvdentia fortis,
Justicia Astræe, Cælicæ Tempia petvnt.

Obiit 7o Die Junii, A'o D'ni 1642. Ætat. 53.

It would appear that this Rector was the same individual as Dr. Bronnoker, Vicar of Cropredy, Warrington and Claydon, co. Oxon, the inhabitants of which, 14 Aug. 1841, drew up a petition to the House of Lords, in which they said that their Vicar resided on another living held by him, that he paid his curates very inefficiently, was a man of scandalous life, and that he turned away one Mr. Andrew, a preaching minister paid by the parishioners; and they prayed that Andrew might continue amongst them until the complaint against Dr. Bronnoker was heard (IV. Report Hist. MSS. p. 95a). Cf. *Lords Journals*, iv. 364, where he is called Dr. Bronokard; and the House ordered that Andrew shall be continued Curate, the Dr. to have a copy of the Petition, and to appear before the next meeting of Parliament.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

Queries.

[676] THE ORCHARD OF SYON.

There is, or at all events was, a book under this title written sometime in the 16th century, and which was associated one way or other with the county of CHESTER. Can any reader of THE SHEAF give some particulars of this work, explaining at the same time the exact connection between it or its author and the county palatine?

A WOODMAN.

[677] THE BOWSTONES AT LYME.

A North Cheshire man born, though now for some half century and more a denizen of the old city of Chester, I well remember as a boy two large upright stones which stood near the entrance gates of LYME PARK, the ancestral seat of the LEGHS. The old people used to tell some strange stories about these old stones: but my object now is to enquire for what purpose and when these said stones were erected at that spot?

L. L.

Replies.

[678] OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.

[Nos. 481, 509, 531, 546.—Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 19, 26.]

CAPTAIN ROBERT THOMAS was of a good family in North Wales, but for a long period was a voluntary tenant of the debtor's side of the Chester City Gaol, at that time standing at the Northgate. He had served in the American war, and would make his conversation thereon amusing by the infusion of romance, such as

"that at a hard fought battle an Irishman, who knew no duty but fighting, whilst advancing to charge was struck with a musket ball in the chest. Captain Thomas seeing the man wounded ordered him to the rear, and as he fell back he spat out the ball, and holding it in his hand said, *Captain, this is a hard quid!*"

There are several amusing anecdotes respecting him, of which the following are a few:—

He used frequently to visit the coffee-room of the Royal Hotel, and on one occasion Admiral Bowen was telling a not very credible tale, when at the conclusion, placing himself in front of the Admiral, with a loud and theatrical tone and manner, exclaimed, *I said in my haste, all men are liars*, and then marched out of the room. On another occasion, when Major Henchman (who had in his opinion slighted him), and about whom it was rumoured he had shown the "white feather" in connection with a duel, was in the coffee-room, he addressed him: *Major, the wicked world says you're a coward! You that have borne His Majesty's commission in the army! O shame, shame, to stigmatise an officer in His Majesty's service as a coward; what a wicked world we live in!*

The Captain himself, when he made his appearances abroad, used to be saluted with the cry of "*Captain, you are a coward.*" Whether he received this appellation before or after the previous anecdote I have had no opportunity of learning, though it seems to have generally been considered in his case inappropriate.

Having amongst his family acquaintances the friendship of the Bishop of Bangor, he, upon one occasion, applied for a loan of twenty pounds, which his Lordship advanced; but not having returned it, and the time of repayment long past, he met the Bishop one day on Westminster Bridge. After the usual salutations had passed his Lordship reminded him of his obligation, but being unable to discharge the debt he immediately expressed his sorrow for such apparent forgetfulness. "*At this time,*" said the Captain, "*enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord!*"

Armed with a tremendous shillelagh after a Bacchanalian debauch, he would sally through the rows and streets of the city, and fortunate was the scoundrel which avoided the indiscriminate sway of his arm; occasionally he played in the Rows upon his *fute*, which at times served him as a *owdgel*, and his music therefore must have been frequently out of tune.

He died at the advanced age of 77, on the 23rd of September, 1824, near the City Gaol, where he had for about 20 years been a boarder.

Perhaps some of the readers of THE SHEAF could relate more anecdotes respecting this eccentric character.

Ledsam.

B. M.

[679]

A CESTRIAN MUSE.

[No. 647.—May 7.]

The MS. poem referred to by LUCY D. T. is no doubt the same as one published in a little volume in my possession, styled "*Marina, and other Poems*," by BOSCAWEN TREVOR GRIFFITH, and printed in CHESTER by Catherall and Prichard, in 1859. The author is, I believe, now a gentleman residing at Trevallyn Hall, near Chester.

Should "LUCY D. T." desire it, I would lend her the book for a few days.

H. B. D.

[680] WHYTEHALL, BLACKMALL, AND GREENHALL.

[No. 655.—May 14.]

GREEN HALL, in Castle-lane, temp. Hen. VIII., was owned by the Balls of Chester, temp. Eliz., and purchased, I believe, by Gilbert Gerard of Crewd, Esq., temp. Car. I. or the Commonwealth. I regret to say I know nothing of the other two Halls referred to in the query, beyond having seen their names somewhere in ancient MSS.

W.

[681]

PARK-GATE.

[No. 656.—May 14.]

Besides being "all on one side," it seems (according to your fair correspondent) to have a castle, which like nearly all very great edifices, I suspect had the humblest origin. In the second half of the last century an ancestor of mine used occasionally to visit this place (then, judging from his letters, in high popularity for bathing—and perhaps drinking), and who brought from it sometimes, many curious and some ludicrous stories.

One, I remember, was relating to the visit of a sheriff's officer, or process server of some kind, to eject, or serve a writ in ejectment on, the occupier of a cottage in or near Parkgate,—a stalwart Cheshireman of the right breed. His residence, it seems, had a roof of dilapidated thatch; and on the officer's approach to the door, up suddenly started the massive form of some Massey, Leigh, or Davenport, through a hole in the roof, and in language less polite than empathic, informed the startled "bum-bailiff" that "his house was his Castle."

Not improbably the memory of this incident of a hundred years ago was perpetuated by the neighbours bestowing on the little fortress (which the garrison made strong), the name fairly won; and if not actually the same building, it is not unlikely that the hut of "LUCY T. D." stands on the site of the one defended by the gallant Cestrian.

London.

S. S.

JUNE 4, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

JUNE 4.—William III. arrived at Chester.....	1690
„ 6.—Edward I. came to Chester, staying there a month	1228
„ 7.—John Soot, 7th Earl of Chester, died at Darnhall Grange	1237
„ 8.—Ten young women drowned in the Dee. 1691	
„ 9.—Act passed for enclosing Delamere Forest.	1812
„ 10.—William Whittingham, Dean of Durham, a native of Chester, died	1579

J. H.

Original Documents.

[682]

THE WHITSUN PLAYS.

The religious drama flourished very early in CHESTER. Some writers go so far back as the 18th century to trace its beginning in the old city, but the evidence to support so ancient a date is certainly not now forthcoming. About, if not before, 1450, some of those sacred Mysteries, afterwards so popular at Coventry and other mediæval towns, had already been enacted in the churches of Chester; but especially in the nave of St. Werburgh's Abbey, within which, tradition avers, they were actually compiled in the first instance. Later on, these performances, banished from the churches, were displayed on moveable stages wheeled about from place to place in various streets of the city.

I can hear of no MS. copy of these CHESTER PLAYS that dates further back than the beginning of the 16th century; but the style of composition, and many of the words and idioms employed, seem rather to point to a half century earlier as the true date of their origin.

There is still preserved in the British Museum (Harleian MS. 2013) the copy of a proclamation made in 1535, by William Newall, then Mayor of Chester, setting forth

"That to exhort the mindes of comon people to good devotion and holosome doctrine, as also for the comon welth and prosperity of this citty," the series of Chester, Plays were "to be declared and played in the Whitsonne weekes." Pope Clement is therein said to have granted "a 1000 dayes of pardon, and the bushop of Chester at that time 40 dayes of pardon from thensforth to every person resorting, in peaceable manner with good devotion, to heare and see the sayd playes from tyme to tyme as oft as the shall be played within the sayd citty."

The venerable ROBERT ROGERS, Archdeacon of Chester, who himself witnessed the performance of those plays by the various Trade Guilds of the city, thus graphically describes what he saw :—

"The time of the years they were played was on Monday, Tuesday, and Wensedaye in Whitsoun weeks. The maner of these playes wears,—every company had his pagiant or parte, which pagiantes weare a high scafolde with 2 rowmes, a higer and a lower, upon 4 wheeles. In the lower they apperelled them selves, and in the higher rowme they played, being all open on the tope, that all behoulders mighte heare and see them. The places where they played them was in every streete. They begane first at the abay gates [before the Abbot and his brethren]; and when the first pagiant was played, it was wheeled to the highe crosses before the mayor, and so to every streete; and soe every streete had a pagiant playinge before them at one tyme, till all the pagiantes for the daye appoynted weare played; and when one pagiant was neere ended, worde was broughte from streete to streete, that soe the mighte come in place thereof, exceedinge orderlye, and all the streetes have their pagiantes afore them all at one tyme playeing together; to se which playes was greateserete and also scafoldes and stages made in the streetes in those places where they determined to play their pagiantes."

In another place ARCHDEACON ROGERS, writing somewhat more at large, says :—

"The manner of which playes was thus : they were divided into 24 pagiantes, according to the companies of the cittie, and every companye brought forth the their pagiant, which was the cariage or place which they played in. And thei first beganne at the Abbaye gates; and when the firste pagiant was played at the Abbaye gates, then it was wheled from thense to Pentise, at the hyghe crosse, before the maior; and before that was donne the seconde came, and the firste went into the Watergate Streete, and from thense unto the Bridge Streete; and so one after another till all the pagiantes weare played appoynted for the firste daye; and so likewise for the seconde and the thirde day. These pagiantes or carriages was a highe place made like a howse,.....and thei stode upon vj wheeles; and when thei had donne with one cariage in one place, thei wheled the same from one streete to another."

The Company of "Cappers, Pynners, Wierdrawers, and Lynnen Drapers," an extensive transcript of whose records was some years ago made by me from the originals, had allotted to them the Play of "Balaam and his Ass"; and in the quaint Banes proclaimed annually at Whitsuntide, the Company were thus summoned to their post of duty :—

"Cappers and lynnen drapers, see that you fourth bringe,

In well decked order, that worthy storie
Of Balaam and his asse, and of Balaoke the Kinge;
Make the asse to spake, and sett yt out
livelye."

And no doubt they did so; for the brethren of the various Guilds were jealous for the stately rendering of their especial Play, and often beggared their small finances in efforts to excel their brethren of the other Companies in the annual pageant.

Under the year 1608, according to the minute-book of the Company, the Mayor orders as follows :—

"JUNE 1. fforasmuch as it appeareth that of aun-
ciente tyme the Companye of Capp's, pynners,
and wyardrawers, within this cittie haue yearelye
ioyned to geather in settinge fourth their pagines
both at plaies at Whitsontyde and at the Watch on
Mydsomer, And that afterwards, upon decalc of the
pynners and Wyardrawers, the Companye of Lynnen
Drapers within the said Cittye have ioyned in all
Contribution' with the saide Cappers; w^{ch} companye
of Capp's beinge lykewise decayed, the companye
of bricklayers have borne the charge with the saide
lynnen drapers yearely in settinge forth the Shew
or Mydsomer Watch, Accordinge to aun-
cient Costome; which saide lynnen Drapers doe nowe
refuse to ieyne or Contribute in the same, It is
therefore ordered that the saide Lynnen Drapers
and bricklayers shall contynue the settinge fourth of
the said shewe vpon Midsemer Eve, and be Con-
tributors one wth the other for the doeing theireof,
as they have bene accustomed for the space of
manye years.

HUGH GLASEBOURNE, MAIOR.

WILL'M ALDERSEY	EDMUND GAMUELL.
JOHN RADOLYFF	THOMAS LYNEALL.
EDWARD DUTTON	JOHN FYTTON.
THOMAS GAMUELL	FYOLKE ALDERSEY.
RICHARD BAYAND.	

"More, it is fully agreed vpon that the Stewar-
des for the tyme beinge shall, against everye Mid-
somere even against the Watch, provide some comely boye
to Ryde upon Balahams Asse before the companye,
and also to see that the saide boye and Asse be
trymed and sett fourth accordinge to Aun-
cient Custome for the Creditt of the same companye, in
paine of forfeaytinge for any such defaulte in
money.....10s."

Enough for the time being as to the WHITSUN PLAYS:
I shall probably have a little more to say of them in
the MIDSUMMER No. of THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[688] WHIT-MONDAY CATASTROPHE.

In the year 1691, a terrible disaster occurred on the
River Dee. A holiday party, composed largely of young
women, were being rowed up the river on Whit-
Monday, when by some means a panic ensued, the boat
was upset opposite to St. John's Church, and ten
persons, all of them females, were drowned.

G. T.

[684] THINGS I REMEMBER, No. 6.

TAKING DOWN THE MAY-POLE.

It must be considerably more than 50 years ago, but I can picture the scene now as well as if it were yesterday, and a lively scene it was for us all too. The Grosvenor MAYPOLE at the fork of the roads in HANDBRIDGE had got dingy in the service, and the local partizans of the "great House" were just then all agog to smarten it up again.

I remember it was Whitsuntide; and the Handbridge Corporation (a charterless and now extinct body) were met at old Robert Sinker's, the "Grosvenor Arms" to choose a new Mayor. When the usual forms had been gone through, the old mayor, Joe Harrison, accompanied by his successor, George Gill, and attended by the other functionaries, formed a procession with John Evans' Grosvenor Band at the head, to the site of the MAY-POLE, with picks and shovels on their broad shoulders. I shall try here to describe the task they had undertaken.

The new Mayor first breaks the ground with his pick, when the other members go to work to open the ground round the Pole, in order to take it down. During this process, Mr. Dixon's wheels, with shears, blocks, and ropes make their appearance. The shears are reared behind the MAY-POLE, and attached to the cross-pegs by a large pair of blocks and ropes; two strong cables from the shears are next carried one on either end of the May-Pole House and made fast to two trees, one a sycamore in the yard, and the other a lime-tree in the garden; then two other strong ropes from the cross-pegs are carried one on either side of the street, and held by several men to guide the Pole down to the shears.

When the hole is dug to the requisite depth, the Pole is lowered by the blocks and shears on to the vresales prepared for the purpose, amid great shouting and rejoicing. Then the old garlands are removed from the Pole, and the vane (the dog,—the Grosvenor crest) taken to be re-gilt. Dixon's wheels are brought over the Pole which, raised by a strong chain, is swung beneath the wheels, and some 50 to 100 men push and pull the whole into Littler's yard adjoining, to be painted and varnished.

The wives of the party join in visiting the linen drapers' shops in the city to beg pieces of cotton prints to piece together to cover the garlands. The covers being made, and fringed with yellow and blue glazed cotton, rosettes of tinsel and gay ribbons give them a very lively appearance. Whilst the May-pole is being painted yellow, blue, and white in diagonal stripes, the Corporation, again headed by Evans' Band, perambulate the streets of the city with the newly-gilt dog and the four new garlands carried aloft on poles,—the whole presenting an imposing appearance, and creating quite a stir in the city, many tradesmen giving handsomely towards the expenses.

In a week or two afterwards, when the paint had got perfectly dry on the Pole, came the time for putting it up again, namely, MIDSUMMER DAY. Dixon's wheels and other appliances were again in requisition, and the Pole brought into position to be raised to its former place. When all was ready, and the Pole had been lifted a little, the dog was fixed on the vane-iron, dressed with yellow, blue, and white ribbons tied to his tail, and a large rosette at his head; and I remember that, fresh gilt as he was, he looked very well indeed. On the Pole being raised a little higher, the newly dressed garlands were brought forth and placed in their sockets, and then the entire trophy received its last lift into an upright position, amid huzzas, I might truly say, from thousands of voices. The hole was quickly filled in and well rammed,—“His Worship” the Mayor made a burlesque speech to his commons,—and the evening was brought to a close by the women joining their sweethearts and worse halves in a country dance or two round the Pole, to the strains of Fennell's fiddle.

The MAY-POLE, and the scenes enacted round it are now altogether things of the past; but the foregoing relation from an old Handbridge “cronk,” who witnessed and still remembers what he has described, ought not to be out of place in the WHITSUNTIDE number of THE SHEAF.

R. L.

[685]

WHIT-MONDAY.

“Monday last being the annual day on which the idle part of society conceive they have a licence to put on the fool's cap, a group of overgrown children (some of them *six feet high*) displayed their buffoonery in the streets of this city under the denomination of *Morris Dancers*! These patch-coated *Whit-Monday monsters*, attended by a *polite gentleman* in the character of a *Merry Andrew*, or *fool*; after jumping about *à la morisco*, and offending the eye of modesty by their indecent gesticulations and grimaces several successive hours, at length took their leave, with their pockets pretty tolerably filled with pence! How the sight of a press-gang might have improved their steps is easy to imagine; they would probably have danced off in quick time to a new tune.”

This extract from a CHESTER paper of 1790, will give to us of the present day an idea of the habits and customs in this city in times gone by. F. J. M.

[686] INTERCEPTED LETTER OF CHARLES WALLLEY TO THE BARON OF KINDERTON, 1655:

HENRY CROMWELL IN CHESTER.

The following “horsey” letter, written from London, bears the superscription, “*For the honourable Peter Venables, barron of Kinderton, at his house at Kinderton, nere Middlewich in Cheshire, present these.*” It is taken from Thurloe's *State Papers*, iii. 523-4. The writer was Mayor of Chester in 1644,

and Alderman at the date of the letter. From 1649 he had been Victualler at Chester and Liverpool, the agent for transporting soldiers to Ireland, and for billeting troops upon the burgesses of Chester. The rate of pay for billets was 6d. per man, and 1s. for man and horse. In 1649 Walley was employed to victual Col. Venables' troops, and to transport them to Dublin. He had gone up to London, as it seems, to get some public accounts audited, to which end Henry Cromwell, the son of the Protector, gave him a letter of introduction to Secretary Thurloe, dated Chester, 2nd June, urging the naming of the auditors without more delay, he (Walley) having attended a long time "much to the prejudice of his own affairs." Cromwell's letter mentions Walley's former good service "to the publique," and the very great respects done by him to Cromwell (iii. 503); but the Alderman appears to have been somewhat of a double dealer. In Holme's *Academie of Armoury*, Bk. iii., 31, the arms of Walley of Middlewich are given as '3 pitchforks sable.'

"Honorable Sir,

I received yours of the 2d instant [June], whereby I see my man John presumed to bringe a yonge well-bred pacyng mare. . . .
He saie, she is bread in a good soyle, nere Cotton Edmunds [a township in the parish of Christleton, Cheshire], a fruitful place in former tymes.

Your great shanot neighbore is come home ere this: and for what I heare onley, advanced to be captain of the county troope, and governor of Chester. Justice Manley, . . . his lieutenant, if he will accept it, and Capt. Griffith, cornett: officers all made, and he took downe all the commissions with him. He was soe civile and courteous as came to me at my lodging, and wee dynd together. But for all his favour and interest did not move a word for there arrears at Woster. I perceave he's troubled, that Coll. Garratt did dodge, and soe mist the excoyse of salt. Here hath bine great expectation of some new declaration or denomination this fortnight; but yet nothing appears. [These were the views on Church discipline by John Rogers, of St. Thomas the Apostle's, London.] A great press of seamen. Now this is done, another great fleet to goe presently after Coll. Venables to *terra ignota*; for noe newes from him yet since he left the Barbados. Will be great alteration, it's said, of great officers in England and Ireland. Some 10 daies hence or a fortnight the lord H[enry] C[romwell] goes for Ireland. I was with him this morninge, and he said: 2 or 3 daies hence he would tell me the tyme; if I could gett special auditors for my account I should make an end shortly. I have almost spent my spiritts with the business of it, and never man more desired to be at home. I begg your pardon for boldnes, p[re]suming on your unwonted goodnes and freedome to your most bounden servant at command,

CHA. WALLEY.

June 7, 1655.

My most humble service to your good lady and daughter. Mr. H. Wilbram and I once a week remember you.

You might rayse friends in England and Ireland by presenting a young horse at Chester, as the great man [Henry Cromwell] passes by. You'le saake whether I am in jest or earnest.

He will have both the horse and the mare that were Sir B. M."

Col. ROBERT VENABLES, named in this letter, was the celebrated Cheshire Captain (of Antrobus and Wincham) who was in command of the land forces in the expedition sent out to attack Hispaniola and other places in the West Indies. The expedition being badly fitted out, fared ill. It resulted, however, in giving Jamaica to the British. There is a long and interesting account of the affair in a letter in the State Papers (ij., 604-8), written by a Cheshire man named J. DANIELL, who was auditor general in the expedition, in which likewise were other Cheshire men. His narrative is penned with some spirit and with the precision of a log-book; and it is quite worth referring to in connection with the account of VENABLES in vol. xxxij. of the Chetham Society. The letter is addressed to a Mr. Hardwick, who is requested to make several copies of it to be sent as follows:—

"One to my wife, if she be at London; you will find or heare of her att my cosen Mr. Nathaniel Stirrop's howse in Aldersgate-street, otherwise at her howse in Ipswich; another copy to my brother Coll. William Daniel, governor of St. Johnson's in Scotland; another copy to my mother Mrs. Christian Daniel, at her howse Tabley, nere Knottsforde in Cheshyre; and to write every one of them particularly the reason of my not writing to them, having noe tyme, the ship beeing just going."

JOHN E. BAILEY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

P.S.—As to the dates upon which Henry Cromwell was present in Chester (see SHEAF, page 3) the following seem to be more nearly accurate than those given:—

1653.

2 Junij. H. Cromwell was at Chester (having come thither from London?); and there he wrote the letter in favour of Ald. Walley above referred to. 'I am nowe goeing hence to the place wheare the Shippes ride.' Thurloe, p. 503. Thence he seems to have returned to London.

7 Junij. Ald. Wolley calls upon H. C. in London, whence the latter proposed to leave for Ireland some ten days hence. P., 523.

13 Junij. 'My lorde Harrye Cromwel, lord liffenant of Ireland, whose baggage are already gon, which his lordship felowes [follows], and we that are of his traine a day or two after.' Darcy's letter from London, 13th June, p. 548.

23 Junij. H. Cromwell, writing from Chester, says that he arrived there 'with all my family safe and in good health the laste night' viâ Northampton. When I came out of towne I thought I might have performed my journey in less time, but indeed the wayes and the weather proving oe very bad I could not possibly get hither sooner. I intend to loose no time to gett forward, and therefore resolve one [on] Monday to goe to the place of ship-pinge, wheer I shall only waite for a wind. . . I have bin treated with a great deall of respect frome the countrey in my journey hither, and find noe less hear.' p. 581.

Julij. From Holyhead, H. Cromwell writes: 'I ame heer waiting uppon the Lorde for a winde, and have bin soe since Monday. The weather hathe bin verrey bade that we durst not venter to sea. . . Wee are in a barren countrey, that affordes noe news, only matter of great sadeness to see poore wretches readie to starve for the wante of Spirituall foode. Heer is not above twoe ministers in all this islande, ande about three score parishe churches in it. Indeed, sir, it is a very lamentable sight, and would move any man's harte that hathe any sence of God. There is a desire in the people to have a supply of godly ministers.' p. 614.

J. E. B.

Queries.

[687] BACHE POOL CORPORATION.

On WHITMONDAY, 1790, says a Chester Paper of the time, "the day was suffered to pass without any election of officers for the antient and *respectable* corporation of Bache Pool, near this city. We sincerely hope this venerable body have not lost their charter."

Can anyone give information respecting this "ancient and venerable body?"

C. THORNTON.

Replies.

[688]

PARKGATE.

[No. 334.—Oct. 30.]

In the above No. I asked as to the derivation of Parkgate, suggesting that the name was derived from the land called anciiently "the Park." Since writing the question I have been presented with a copy of John

Speede's Map of "the Countye Palatine of Chester, with that most ancient Citie described." Therein all the Parks in the County are described by being surrounded by empalements with trees planted inside; and I find the lands,—now divided into fields, called the Parks, and lying between Neston and the village of Parkgate,—so empaled and planted, which confirms me in the idea I entertained of the origin of the name.

Within the last week or two I have met in the State Papers for Ireland, under date Nov. 28, 1690, the following, which I also take as confirmatory of the origin of the name, viz.:—

"The list of the Mariners and Seafaring men inhabiting in the City of Chester, together with their ages.

"Similar list in Mostyn and Flint, and towns adjacent.

"Similar account from the Officer of Denwall.

"Also an account of the Ships and Seafaring men belonging to Chester Water, now at home at *Neston Key*, the '*Park Gate*' near adjoining, or else abroad, together with their names, abodes and ages.

"Also the names of other Sea-faring men not employed in the ships afore-named, but either lying at home, or employed in other ships, liv'g in the several towns in the Hundred of *Woreall*."

These lists, which are too long to set out here, were accompanied by "The Warrant" from the Mayor to the Constables of the several Wards of the City of Chester, to give their assistance in making lists of the sea-faring men in that City.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

689]

MRS. DOROTHY LEIGH.

[No. 665.—May 21.]

Judging from the great number of editions that this charming little book went through in the 17th and early portion of the 18th century, it must have been extremely popular. The first notice I can find of it is in Arber's *Transcript of the Stationers' Registers*, Vol. III., 269, where, under date 26 February, 1615-16 is—

"John Budge entred for his copie under the handes of Master Sanford and Master warden Swinhowe a booke called, *The Mothers Blessinge*, written by Mistris Dorothy Leigh."

The next edition, in point of date, which I have been able to trace, is my own copy. The Tenth Edition, 1627. Mr. HERFORD names one of 1638. I have seen the following editions, viz., 1667, 1674, 1701, and 1767.

In *Notes and Queries*, 4th Series, Vol. II., 10th Oct., 1868, p. 347, is the following query:—"Who was Mrs. DOROTHY LEIGH, authoress of this little work?" The Editor subjoined the following reply:—

"Mrs. Dorothy Leigh, author of *The Mother's Blessing*, 1627, 1630, 1638, 1663, 1694, 1707, was the daughter of William Kemp, of Finchingfield, Essex,

and married Ralph Leigh, a Cheshire gentleman, who was a soldier under the Earl of Essex at Cadiz. (Compare Harl. MS. 6071, p. 408, with Morant's *Essex*, II., 364.) Morant states that Dorothy Kempe was the daughter of Robert Kempe, and that she married Ralph Lee, of *Sussex*. The *Mother's Blessing* is dedicated to the Princess Elizabeth, wife to the Count Palatine; and there is prefixed a poem entitled, *Counsell to my Children*, George, John, and William Leigh. In 1626, her son William was appointed Rector of Groton, in Suffolk, then in the gift of the Winthrop family. John Winthrop, in a letter to his son, dated January 9, 1626, says, 'We are now, by God's providence, like to foster upon a godly man, one Mr. Lea [Leigh], a curate at Denston in Suffolk.' See Winthrop's *History of New England*, ed. 1825-6, i. 347."

I much regret that no further light has been thrown on Mrs. Dorothy Leigh. I have searched everywhere, but without success.

Alderley Edge.

G. W. N.

JUNE 11, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 12.—Countess Elmida died at Tamworth.....	919
" 13.—Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Chester, died at Berse, near Wrexham	1596
" 14.—Henry W. Majendie consecrated 25th Bishop of Chester.....	1800
" 15.—Edward the Black Prince (Earl of Chester) born.....	1320
" 16.—Bishop Heber sailed for India	1823
" 17.—Princes Edward and George, sons of the Prince of Wales, visited Chester	1875

J. H.

Original Documents.

[690] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS, No. VII.

The INVASION trouble was still rife in the councils of the Crown, and was a concurrent source of agitation in Cheshire, when the following Documents still existing at Oulton were penned. The first is a circular Letter addressed:—

"To all and en'ie the Lords,
barr'tts, K'ts, Esq's and Gent'
within the Hundred of
EDNESBURY.

Gentlemen,

There being great reason to doubt that there are preparations made by the Enemies of this Kingdome

towards an Invasion: Wee cannot omit to give you Notice thereof, you being equally Concern'd with vs in such a danger.

And further to Informe you that wee haue thought fitt to Secure this County in the best manner wee can: for w'ch purpose wee haue appointed a meeting at Glover Stone vpon Tuesday, the 17th of this Instant July, by tenn of the clocke in the aforenoone; Att w'ch tyme and place wee doe earnestly desire you to meet vs, being assured of yo'r Cherefull Concurrence and assistance in euery particuler relating to his Ma'ties service.

In this Confidence wee remaine,

Gent',

[Your] Aff'tt freinds,

DERBY

R. CHOLMONDELEY

PHIL. EGERTON."

Northwich, July 11th,
1666.

GLOVER-STONE, where the Meeting was appointed to take place, was the small Township of the county (but within the City Walls) in which the CASTLE of Chester is situate. The Gentlemen probably met on that occasion in the old Exchequer Chamber at the Castle.

The next Document of the series is dated July 11, the very day on which the Lord Lieutenant and his brethren were at Northwich arranging for the Meeting at Glover-stone and the assembling of the County Militia, hereafter to be referred to. Sir Philip Egerton has endorsed the Document "The King's letter to Lord Derby, in apprehension of an Invasion, desiring him to take measures to secure the peace."

"Charles R.

Right Trusty and Right Wellbeloved Cousin, Wee greet you well. Wee haue already vpon different Occasions Signified to you the reasons wee had to suspect an Invasion intended of these our Kingdomes by our Enemies from abroad, And how much it is the duty of our good Subjects to Joyne with Vs in our Care and provision for the tymely preventing those designs, the greatest ground of w'ch Wee found to haue bene a beleife & expectac'on they were led into by some Malitious Fugitives of our owne Subjects, of publike distractions and Insurrections that would breake out amongst vs here at home, In w'ch wee hope they will find themselves disappointed.

However, Considering the treacherous Arts and practises of our Enemies from abroad, Some of w'ch wee haue by God's blessing already discovered and Frustrated, and the ill temper of some disaffected persons within our owne Kingdome: Wee haue thought fitt again to warn you of the same, that you haue a perticular Eye to those you shall haue reason to Suspect within yo'r Lieutenancy, and the most dangerous amongst them forthwith to secure, More Especially those who shallbe observed to keepe horses or Armes above their ranks: Which in that case, you are vpon search made to Seize and take from them, And in the generall by the best diligence

23 Junij. H. Cromwell, writing from Chester, says that he arrived there 'with all my family safe and in good health the laste night' viâ Northampton. When I came out of towne I thought I might have performed my journey in less time, but indeed the wayes and the weather proving oe very bad I could not possibly get hither sooner. I intend to loose no time to gett forward, and therefore resolve one [on] Monday to goe to the place of ship-pinge, wheer I shall only waite for a wind. . . . I have bin treated with a great deall of respect frome the countrey in my journey hither, and find noe less hear.' p. 581.

Julij. From Holyhead, H. Cromwell writes: 'I ame heer waiting uppon the Lorde for a winde, and have bin soe since Monday. The weather hathe bin verry bade that we durst not venter to sea. . . . Wee are in a barren countrey, that affordes noe news, only matter of great sadeness to see poore wretches readie to starve for the wante of Spirituall foode. Heer is not above twee ministers in all this islande, ande about three score parishe churches in it. Indeed, sir, it is a very lamentable sight, and would move any man's harte that hathe any sence of God. There is a desire in the people to have a supply of godly ministers.' p. 614.

J. E. B.

Queries.

[687] BACHE POOL CORPORATION.

On WHITMONDAY, 1790, says a Chester Paper of the time, "the day was suffered to pass without any election of officers for the antient and *respectable* corporation of Bache Pool, near this city. We sincerely hope this venerable body have not lost their charter."

Can anyone give information respecting this "ancient and venerable body?"

C. THORNTON.

Replies.

[688]

PARKGATE.

[No. 334.—Oct. 30.]

In the above No. I asked as to the derivation of Parkgate, suggesting that the name was derived from the land called anciently "the Park." Since writing the question I have been presented with a copy of John

Speede's Map of "the Countye Palatine of Chester, with that most ancient Citle described." Therein all the Parks in the County are described by being surrounded by empalements with trees planted inside; and I find the lands,—now divided into fields, called the Parks, and lying between Neston and the village of Parkgate,—so empaled and planted, which confirms me in the idea I entertained of the origin of the name.

Within the last week or two I have met in the State Papers for Ireland, under date Nov. 28, 1690, the following, which I also take as confirmatory of the origin of the name, viz.:—

"The list of the Mariners and Seafaring men inhabiting in the City of Chester, together with their ages.

"Similar list in Mostyn and Flint, and towns adjacent.

"Similar account from the Officer of Denwall.

"Also an account of the Ships and Seafaring men belonging to Chester Water, now at home at *Neston Key*, the '*Park Gate*' near adjoining, or else abroad, together with their names, abodes and ages.

"Also the names of other Sea-faring men not employed in the ships afore-named, but either lying at home, or employed in other ships, liv'g in the several towns in the Hundred of *Wereall*."

These lists, which are too long to set out here, were accompanied by "The Warrant" from the Mayor to the Constables of the several Wards of the City of Chester, to give their assistance in making lists of the sea-faring men in that City.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

689]

MRS. DOROTHY LEIGH.

[No. 665.—May 21.]

Judging from the great number of editions that this charming little book went through in the 17th and early portion of the 18th century, it must have been extremely popular. The first notice I can find of it is in *Arber's Transcript of the Stationers' Registers*, Vol. III., 269, where, under date 26 February, 1615-16 is—

"John Budge entred for his copie under the handes of Master Sanford and Master warden Swinhowe a booke called, *The Mothers Blessings*, written by Mistris Dorathy Leighe."

The next edition, in point of date, which I have been able to trace, is my own copy. The Tenth Edition, 1627. Mr. HERFORD names one of 1638. I have seen the following editions, viz., 1667, 1674, 1701, and 1707.

In *Notes and Queries*, 4th Series, Vol. II., 10th Oct., 1868, p. 347, is the following query:—"Who was Mrs. DOROTHY LEIGH, authoress of this little work?" The Editor subjoined the following reply:—

"Mrs. Dorothy Leigh, author of *The Mother's Blessing*, 1627, 1630, 1638, 1663, 1694, 1707, was the daughter of William Kemp, of Finchfield, Essex,

and married Ralph Leigh, a Cheshire gentleman, who was a soldier under the Earl of Essex at Cadix. (Compare Harl. MS. 6071, p. 408, with Morant's *Essex*, II., 384.) Morant states that Dorothy Kempe was the daughter of Robert Kempe, and that she married Ralph Lee, of *Sussex*. The *Mother's Blessing* is dedicated to the Princess Elizabeth, wife to the Count Palatine; and there is prefixed a poem entitled, *Counsel to my Children*, George, John, and William Leigh. In 1626, her son William was appointed Rector of Groton, in Suffolk, then in the gift of the Winthrop family. John Winthrop, in a letter to his son, dated January 9, 1626, says, 'We are now, by God's providence, like to foster upon a godly man, one Mr. Lea [Leigh], a curate at Denston in Suffolk.' See Winthrop's *History of New England*, ed. 1825-6, i. 347."

I much regret that no further light has been thrown on Mrs. Dorothy Leigh. I have searched everywhere, but without success.

Alderley Edge.

G. W. N.

JUNE 11, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 12.—Countess Elfreda died at Tamworth.....	919
" 13.—Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Chester, died at Berse, near Wrexham	1596
" 14.—Henry W. Majendie consecrated 25th Bishop of Chester.....	1800
" 15.—Edward the Black Prince (Earl of Chester) born.....	1320
" 16.—Bishop Heber sailed for India	1823
" 17.—Princes Edward and George, sons of the Prince of Wales, visited Chester	1875

J. H.

Original Documents.

[690] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY DOCUMENTS, No. VII.

The INVASION trouble was still rife in the councils of the Crown, and was a concurrent source of agitation in Cheshire, when the following Documents still existing at Oulton were penned. The first is a circular Letter addressed:—

"To all and eu'ie the Lords,
barr'tts, K'ts, Esq'rs and Gent'
within the Hundred of
EMSBURY.

Gentlemen,

There being great reason to doubt that there are preparations made by the Enemies of this Kingdome

towards an Invasion: Wee cannot omit to give you Notice thereof, you being equally Concern'd with vs in such a danger.

And further to Informe you that wee haue thought fitt to Secure this County in the best manner wee can: for w'ch purpose wee haue appointed a meeting at Glover Stone vpon Tuesday, the 17th of this Instant July, by tenn of the clockes in theaforenoone; Att w'ch tyme and place wee doe earnestly desire you to meet vs, being assured of yo'r Cherefull Concurrence and assistance in euery perticular relating to his Ma'ties service.

In this Confidence wee remaine,

Gent',

[Your] Aff'tt freinds,

DERBY

R. CHOLMONDELEY

PHI. EGERTON."

Northwich, July 11th,
1666.

GLOVER-STONE, where the Meeting was appointed to take place, was the small Township of the county (but within the City Walls) in which the CASTLE of Chester is situate. The Gentlemen probably met on that occasion in the old Exchequer Chamber at the Castle.

The next Document of the series is dated July 11, the very day on which the Lord Lieutenant and his brethren were at Northwich arranging for the Meeting at Glover-stone and the assembling of the County Militia, hereafter to be referred to. Sir Philip Egerton has endorsed the Document "The King's letter to Lord Derby, in apprehension of an Invasion, desiring him to take measures to secure the peace."

"Charles R.

Right Trusty and Right Wellbeloved Cousin, Wee greet you well. Wee haue already vpon different Oocations Signified to you the reasons wee had to suspect an Invasion intended of these our Kingdomes by our Enemies from abroad, And how much it is the duty of our good Subjects to Joyne with Vs in our Care and provision for the tymeely preventing those designes, the greatest ground of w'ch Wee found to haue beene a beleife & expectac'on they were led into by some Malitious Fugitives of our owne Subjects, of publike distractions and Insurrections that would breake out amongst vs here at home, In w'ch wee hope they will find themselves disappointed.

However, Considering the treacherous Arts and practises of our Enemies from abroad, Some of w'ch wee haue by God's blessing already discovered and Frustrated, and the ill temper of some disaffected persons within our owne Kingdome: Wee haue thought fitt again to warn you of the same, that you haue a perticular Eye to those you shall haue reason to Suspect within yo'r Leivetenancy, and the most dangerous amongst them forthwith to secure, More Especially those who shallbe observed to keepe horses or Armes above their ranks: Which in that case, you are vpon search made to Seize and take from them, And in the generall by the best diligence

and Circumspection you can, to watch and find out what may bee Contriving or Carrying on preiudiciall to the peace of our Kingdome and Govern't.

And if it shall hereafter happen, as wee find itt already hath in some parts of this our Kingdome, that any of the enemies shall attempt to land, or make a descent in any part within your Leintenaney to robbe and spoyle our Subjects, You are to give strict Order that Immediately they bee fallen vpon, and that no Quarter bee given to such of them as shallbe taken.

And whereas wee found fitt, by our Letters of the 2'd Instant, to direct that the remayneing part of the three yeares Militia money of your Leintenaney should bee forthwith paid or remitted to S'r Stephen ffox, K't, or his order, Our meaneing was, and accordingly wee have thought good hereby to signifie our pleasure, that you first pay out of the said moneys the 14 dayes pay of this yeare to the Commission officers of your Militia, according to the rates and allowances usually made them in other yeares, And the remainder to be remitted or paid in according to these our Letters: And if it shall happen that the whole of the said moneys bee already returned and paid in by vertue of these letters, Wee will give Orders that the said 14 dayes pay for your Commission officers shall bee refunded and effectually made good to them through your hands, Soe soon as wee shall vnderstand from you how much the same amounts vnto.

And of the whole and everything relateing hereto, you are to returne from time to time an accompt to vs, or the Lords of our Councell, Which wee recommend to your particular care. And for soe doing these our Letters shall bee your sufficient warrant. Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 11th day of July, 1666, In the Eighteenth yeare of our Reigne.

By his Ma'ties Command,

W. MORION.

Addressed

To Our Right Trusty and Right Wel-beloved Cousin Charles Earle of Derby Lord Leinten't of our County Pall' of CHESTER."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[691] "COTTON" OF "CUMBERMORE."—1694-1695.

The STATE PAPERS for Ireland of that date contain a Grant by KING WILLIAM and QUEEN MARY of the Stewardship and Keepership of the Courts Leet, Liberties, and view of Frank Pledge of the domain, manor, and lands of DENBIGH, *alias* Denbigh lands in North Wales, and of all hundreds, Manors, Leets, &c., in the Domain of Denbigh, and of the office of Recorder there, to ROBERT COTTON of CUMBERMORE in the Co. of Chester, Knt. and Baronet.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBSON.

[692].

CHESTER BUTTER MARKET.

The following anecdotes relating to the old Butter-Market in Northgate-street are, I think, worthy of a corner in THE SHEAF. They appeared in *The Mirror* for 1826 (vol. 7, p. 115.)

"The Biter Bit. A butter woman who regularly attended Chester market, was one day observed by a countryman to put a half-crown piece into a lump of butter, being conscious that it was not full weight. The inquest came round—the lump was weighed, and not found wanting. The countryman, who all this time had been on the look out, now stepped forward and purchased a few of the lumps on the top of the basket, and not wishing to appear to know of the prize he had obtained, walked off, leaving the old woman to lament her loss!

The Poetical Farmer. A farmer, who resided in the neighbourhood of Chester, came on market days to sell his butter: his name was Samuel Hopley, but he was more generally known by the name of 'Sam Hopley, the rhymier.' He was a great punster, and in his way, a very amusing companion. An old friend met him one day returning home with his butter, and expressed his surprise at his not having disposed of it, when he was answered by Sam Hopley in the following words:—

'I might as well have asked eleven,
As a farthing above seven;
I lowered it two pence under ten,
But was forced to bring it home again.'"

This Samuel Hopley appears to have been a well-known character in his day. As THE SHEAF has already been the means of eliciting a number of 'Old Chester Characters,' may I venture to suggest that any notice of 'Old Cheshire' celebrities might prove of equal interest.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[693] IRISH AND CHESTER INTERCOURSE WITH LONDON, A.D. 1800.

Difficulties were continually arising in the transmission of the Mail from Dublin to Holyhead, Chester and London, before and at the commencement of the present century.

In a *Plan for Advancing the Trade of the City of Dublin*, printed by W. Watson & Son, Chapel-street, Dublin, 1800, I find the following statement:—

"The great obstacle is the Bar, which it would be impossible and useless to remove, as another bar would immediately form; it compels the trade to be carried on in small vessels of 150 to 200 tons in general. The Mail is now put on board the Packet at the Pigeon House Dock, at different hours from 6 to 12 in the Evening, according as the tide serves; but when the tide serves between 12 and 6, it waits for the tide. If the wind blows fresh from the E., or NE., the Packet cannot sail, and thus an entire tide, and sometimes two, at others, 24 hours, are lost. If the wind blows fresh from the N., at neap tides

the Packet is sometimes neaped in the dock, and therefore cannot sail. When she sails, unless the wind be to the Westward, she has considerable difficulty in working out, to the great loss of time: when she arrives at Holyhead, which, taking an average of 18 hours, is perhaps taking too short a time, the Mail there waits for the Coach to go out in the Morning, and Crossing two Ferries, and passing over several Mountains, and the Sands of Cheeshire, 46 hours are allowed for its arrival in London, but in general it takes 48."

Contrast the above with the present state of affairs:—the "impossibility" of removing the Bar has been solved;—the Bar has been to a great extent removed, and the River deepened, so that vessels of heavy burthen can cross the Bar at all times of tide!

To illustrate this, it is only necessary to mention that the London and North-Western Railway Company start three of their large steamers from the North Wall, Dublin, for Holyhead, during the six week days,—the first at 9 30 a.m., the second at noon, and the third at 7 30 p.m. They leave with the greatest punctuality, and quite irrespective of the time of tide. The gross tonnage of these vessels is close on 1200 tons; their length nearly 300 feet, and they are of 650 horse power each.

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[694]

CHESHIRE DIALECT.

BLART. To betray a secret impulsively. "He blarted it out."

BLENCH. To give way, or become white in the face, fear. "He never blenched at all."

BONE. To steal, or take possession of a thing *solens solens*.

BOO. Bow. Where's your manners? Make a boo, Georgy."

BOTTOM. To bottom a drain is to clean it out thoroughly,

BOWK. A wooden milk pail. "Fill bowk" is a name sometimes given to a good cow.

BRAD-AWE. Brad-awl; a tool used by shoemakers. "Old Tommy Toft," who many years ago kept a little *omnium gatherum* shop in Knutsford, was asked by a shoemaker to show him some brads, which he did, but they were not the right sort. Whilst Tommy's back was turned, looking for others, the man put a lot into his mouth. Tommy, however, had a bit of looking-glass on the wall, and saw the manoeuvre; and, walking quietly round the counter, came behind the man and smack'd his cheeks together, making the blood spurt, and exclaiming, "Brads, eh!"

BREVIT. To bustle about, as a spaniel hunting.

BROTH is usually termed "some broths," or "them broths."

BUCKLE TO. To set to work in earnest.

BUNGO. "Under the bungo o'th'moon" is to be in difficulties, "under the weather."

BURN. Burden. As "a good back burn."

CALL. As, to "call over the coals," to find fault with. There is an old book (ed. 1580) called "The Beehive of the Romish Church: a work for all good Catholics, wherein both the Catholic religion is substantially confirmed and the Hereticks finally fetched over the Coales."

CAST. To warp; as said of some kinds of wood, "it is given to cast."

CATCH IT. "Catch a loking."

CHOP. To exchange or swap.

CHILLED. Tepid water, required for a horse when warm, is called "chilled water."

CLARTY. Sticky.

CLOUT. A blow. "He gie him a clout aside o'th yed."

CONSTABLE. "He's o'errun the constable," which a man is said to have done when out of the way of his creditors.

COOP. Come up. "Coop, lovey," as often said to a cow when it is wanted to shift its position.

COVERLID. Toffey. Many years ago this used to be exhibited in sticks about 15 inches long, wrapped round with soft paper, so as not to stick to the fingers. A child in the nurse's arms seeing a tempting tray of this, exclaimed, "Let Gilley suck; Gilley wen't bite."

DAISY-CUTTER. A horse that goes near the ground, and of which it is also said "it will kick a sixpence before it."

Tushingham.

B. LL. V.

Queries.

[695]

CALDY BROOK.

I was somewhat surprised to see that the brook immediately below the "Red House," in Sandy-lane, near Chester, and which forms the boundary of the Great Boughton and Huntington Townships, is on the Ordnance Survey Map called CALDY BROOK. I have been told by a friend that the local name is *Claverton*

Brook. Which is the correct title? Can the name have any, and if so, what connection with the Hundred of CALDY mentioned in *THE SHEAF* some time since?

J. H.

[696] CHESTER BOOKSELLERS AND ENGRAVERS.

In the first book of Randle Holme's *Academie of Armourie*, fol. 1688, one of the Chapters (ix. page 88) is dedicated, amongst others, to Thomas Thropp, Esq., the author's friend and relation. (See *THE SHEAF*, Nos. 390, 626, 648, 651, and 668.

In the same folio are the initials of two engravers, whose names are wanted. One is R. T. or T. R., the engraver of plate fol. 210, Bk. III, cap. v.; and the other is W. P., fol. 423, cap. x. Bk. III.

Stretford.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

[697] TIMOTHY LIGHTHOLLER OF CHESTER, ARCHITECT.

The Builder of Oct. 2nd, 1869, contains a list of the 61 Architects who sent in designs for the Royal Exchange, Dublin, in February, 1769. Among these I find one from CHESTER, a "TIMOTHY LIGHTHOLLER." In the same paper for Oct. 9th appears the following notice of him and his professional abilities:—

"TIMOTHY LIGHTHOLLER was rather celebrated at the period in question in Cheshire and Lancashire. He was the Architect of St. Paul's Church, Liverpool (opened in 1769). The design is not common, and possesses considerable merit. . . . LIGHTHOLLER also erected (1776) St. John's Church, near St. George's Church, Liverpool, a veritable specimen of the Batty-Langley style of pseudo-Gothic."

Can I obtain further information of this person? Where were any of his designs carried out in CHESHIRE?

J. H.

Replies.

[698] THE MAYOR OF CHESTER'S PILLORY.

[No. 635.—April 30.]

The Mayor's City PILLORY stood, with its companion punishments the Whipping Post and the Stocks, at the High Cross, immediately opposite to, and in full view of, the ancient Pentice Court. Punishment in our ancestors' days was prompt and condign—a few yards, and often fewer minutes, intervened between the magistrate's sentence and its public infliction.

At what date the Pillory was first set up at the High Cross I have no evidence; but I have a note or two as to its removal, which I shall shortly submit for the Editor's approval.

The Mayor of Chester claimed in ancient days to have and use a PILLORY far beyond the limits of his muni-

cipal boundary, but upon what basis that claim was asserted I cannot say. It appears from the *Leiger Book* of VALE ROYAL Monastery that in the reign of Edward II. the Abbot and his brethren presented a petition to the Crown praying for the removal of this PILLORY from the precincts of their house. The Pillory in question had been set up by the Mayor and Citizens of Chester, immediately in front of the Abbey of Vale Royal, and the petition of the monks went the length of pronouncing it to be a common nuisance. No doubt it was a nuisance to the good Abbot and his fraternity; and it would be an interesting fact to learn how such an insolent claim could ever have been made by the Corporation of Chester.

G. T.

[699] WILLIAM THORP, OF CHESTER (1658).

[No. 668.—May 20.]

A rather foolish mistake appeared in my account of the Thorp family in *THE SHEAF* of last week. For "Quaker branch" appeared "greater branch." The paragraph should read "John Thorp settled at Wilmslow in Cheshire, and was the ancestor of the Quaker branch of my family, who lived there from 1660 to 1670." His great grandson John Thorp, of Manchester, born there in 1742, was a well-known Quaker, and his "Life" is a standard work in the library of most members of the Society of Friends. Strange to say, one of his brothers was a soldier, Jonathan Thorp, Captain 41st Regiment, who fought at Minden in 1759, at which date the Chester family was extinct.

Macclesfield,

J. W. H. THORP.

[700] "THE ORCHARD OF SYON."

[No. 676.—May 21.]

This book was printed by WYNKEN DE WORDE in 1519, and is a splendid specimen of his press. The title is:—

"Here begynneth the orcharde of Syon, in the whiche is conteyned the reuelacyons of seynt Katheryne of Sene, with ghostly fruytes & precyous plantes for the helthe of mannes soules."

The work contains seven parts or books, each of which consists of five chapters. Then follows:—

"¶ Lenuoye of Dane James the tranalator," which ends thus:

"¶ Every good thyng the more it be communycate and disparsed abrode, the more fruyte and profyte cometh thereof. This consyderynge a ryghte worshypfull and deuoute ge'tylma', mayster RICHARDE SUTTON esquier, stewarde of the holy monastery of Syon, fyndynge this ghosteley tresure, these dyloges and reuelacyons of the newe seraphycall spouse of cryste, seynt Katheryne of Sene, in a corner by it selfe, wyllynge of his greate charyte itshelde come to lyghte, that many relygyous and deuoute soules myght be releued and haue co'forte therby, he hathe caused at his greate cooste, this booke to be prynted, trusti'ge that moche fruyte shall come thereof, to all

y't shal rede or here of it, desyringe none other thi'ge therfore, but onely ye rewards of god and theyr deuoute prayers for helthe of his soule."

Of this rare book a full bibliographical description will be found in *Herbert's Ames* i., pp. 158-160. Dent's copy printed on vellum sold for £65 2s. (*Lowndes*, p. 1728.)

St. Katherine of *Sienna* was born in 1347, and died in 1380.

Of the translator, *Dane James*, I find no trace.

In 1513, Sir (?) RICHARD SUTTON, one of the founders of Brasenose College, Oxford, was steward of SYON MONASTERY, and had chambers there, where he often resided towards the close of his life. His will, dated 16 March, 15 Hen. viij, was proved in St. Paul's Cathedral, 7 Nov., 1524. (*Aungier's Hist. of Syon*, p. 531.)

The only connection between this work and the county of CHESTER is found in the circumstance that its patron, "Mayster Rycharde Sutton, esquire," was a native of the County Palatine.

J. I. DREDGE.

Buckland Brewer, Devon.

SIR RICHARD SUTTON who, jointly with the then Bishop of Lincoln, founded the Cheshire and Lancashire College of Brasenose at Oxford, was the man to whom the printing of *The Orchard of Syon* by Wynken de Worde, as well as its translation into English, was due. He was a successful barrister, and became Governor of the Inner Temple, and a Privy Councillor. He is stated to have been a native of Prestbury; and it appears from his will that his parents were buried in the adjoining church of Maccolesfield, where Sir Richard, who was knighted within a year of his death, 16 Henry VIII., endowed a chantry to their honour. His family were settled in Sutton, in the parish of Prestbury, within a century of the Norman Conquest, taking their name from that of the estate. Sir Richard himself was a younger son, and was therefore never described as of Sutton, which was owned by his eldest brother, and descended to that brother's son and heir John, who was named in the will of the Founder of Brasenose as "my nephew, John Sutton of Sutton." The Cheshire scholars of the last three centuries have been greatly beholden to their fellow-countryman, the patron of *The Orchard of Syon*.

L. L.

JUNE 18, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- June 19.—John Wilkins, 15th Bishop of Chester, died 1668
 „ 20.—Bunbury Church fired by a party of Royalists..... 1643

- June 21.—John Wesley preached in St. Martin's Ash, Chester 1752
 „ 22.—Matthew Henry died at Nantwich 1714
 „ 23.—Oliver Cromwell grants reversion of Mastership of St. John's Hospital to the Mayor of Chester 1658
 „ 24.—Lachford and Warrington Bridge destroyed on the approach of the Rebels 1745
 J. H.

Original Documents.

[701] CHESTER STREETS IN THE TIME OF EDWARD III.

(Continued from No. 671.)

Resuming this mediæval record of the Streets of our city as they existed in the days of the third Edward, together with my own meagre notes thereon, I find myself, in company with the ancient scribe,

"IN WAT'GATE STREET.

Upon the northe Syde of the said strete next to the churche of Sent Peter is A Lane naymed goaslane, and vpon the same syde more westerlye next to the mansion place is a Lane named Gerrards Lane, & it putteth vpon the p'sons Lane; & at the est ende of the trenite churche is a Lane naymed the trenite Lane, and vpon the other syde Anendz that Lane is A Lane named Alban Lane, & it putteth vpon fosterds Lane.

BERWARD STREET

Begenneth At the Graye freers yate, and putteth vpon Barne Lane; and out of this strete Ther went A Layne to sent Cedde churche, Called sant Chadde Layne, & from the Sayde church ther went a waye to the Waules of the Sade Citie, called Dogge Lane.

SAYNT NICOLAS STRETE

Begenneth at Watergate strete & putteth vpon the nones wall and on the Lane Afore the nones, Callid the nones Lane, which Lane putteth Apon the Castell Lane; and out of this stret goethe a way to the waules of the saide citie, and it is cauld Arderne Lane, Lyne Apon the northe side of the Sade Nunes.

PEPU' STREET

Goith oute of Brugge stret Apon the South syde of the churche of Saynte Michell, & putteth ouer fleshemongers Lane to Wolfelde yate in the walles of the Saide Citie, the whych yate some tyme had a Hollo grate wyth a Brugge for . . . putteth vpon the Souters Lode, and vp sent Jones stret & sent John's Lane. This yate was Clossyd vp and for donne for so muche as a yonge man in the Somer season toke a mayres Doughter and Bere hair out of pepur strete, as she was playnge at the Baule Amongst other maydens, & yond wyth Hur A Waye. And after, He maryed the same mayde.

IN BRIGE STREET,

Uppon the west side is A Lane that is naymd of oulde tyme Normans Lane, and now yt is namyd the comenhall lane, and putteth vpon Alban lane, & vpon the same syde more Southe is a lane caulyd perpoyns lane, that was the waye Su'tyme to the com'an haule; & more southerly this Lane ther is an other Lane caulyd fustards Lane, and we now caule yt the Whyte freres Lane, and it putteth vpon Sent Nycolas strete, & Beneyth yt vpon the Same syde is Cuppyng Lane, and it putteth upon non Lane. And Beneith this saide Cuppings Lane more southerly ys the castyll Lane, and out of it goithe a Lane Towards saynt marye Church, called sant marye Lane; and nedz the said castyll Lane ende vpon the est Syde of the Sayde strete is saint Olas Lane, & benethe it vpon the same syde is Clarton Lane, & it puttyth vpon the wauls of the saide Citie, and Anendz this sade Clarton Lane vpon the west ende ther was a waye for horse and man, that went to A yate in the wauls of the Said Cittle, the which Waye was cauled Shipgate; and Anendz this yate before the Brugge was mayde ther was A ferrye bott that Brought bothe hors and man ou' Dee; & out of the Sayde Cuppynges Lane goithe Bunse Lane, & it putteth Apon the castyll Lane.

IN NORTHGATE STREET,

Ther is a Lane Afore the yates of the abbey that is cauled the p'sones Lane, and it puttyth vpon berward strete; and vpon the same side nere the northe yate ys A Lane cauled berne lane, and it puttyth vpon berward strete: and out of it goithe A lane towards the wauls, and it ys namyd Oxe lane, and from it towards the northe is cauld bagge lane: and without the saide northeyat vpon the est syde The Lane that ys besydes the lyttell kelne and goyethe northeward towards the Wyndemyll, That waye ys cauld the Sandye Waye: and withoute the Sayde northegayte ther is one waye that goythe towards the Bache and yt ys caulyd the Bache Waye, and ther ys an other Waye That goythe towards the porte poule, and it ys cauld Poule Waye."

Gerrard's Lane in the above ancient document is now, almost more appropriately, known as *CROOK STREET*; for it is still, as we may well conceive *Leen Lane* in Eastgate Street to have been, a very steep and uneven lane, almost impassable for heavy carts, though sundry improvements have from time to time been made in the gradients. Both these streets must have well earned their suggestive titles in Tudor times.

Alban Lane, now *WEAVER STREET*, seems almost to point to some early religious house there dedicated to St. Alban, though I find no trace of such a church in our local story.

Berward Street my readers will have no difficulty in identifying with *LINENHALL STREET*, a name given to it within the last hundred years. Before that time it was known as *Lower Lane* (otherwise *Lougher Lane*), because it was until that period the *lowest* lane on that

side of Watergate Street, Linenhall Place and Stanley Street, &c., being then all included within the grounds of the *GRAY FRIARS MONASTERY*.

"Sent Cedde chnrohe" and "Sant Chadde Layne" remind us of another Church not then in existence, nor had it been indeed for at least a century previously. But this is a subject which will deserve separate handling some day in *THE SHEAF*.

Arderne Lane is the present *BLACK FRIARS Lane*, opposite to St. Martin's old brick Church.

The quaint story about the Pepper Gate and the Mayor's abducted daughter is not badly told, though of course amplified and idealised, in Albert Smith's *Christopher Tadpole*.

Clarton Lane. *HEMINGWAY* (i. 404) prints this *Clayton Lane*, but in the original record, which I here print *verbatim*, it is undoubtedly written Clarton [? for Claverton] Lane.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[702]

WATERLOO.

On this the sixty-fourth anniversary of the grand overthrow of Napoleon by the Allied Forces under Wellington, a few local gleanings thereon will perhaps not be out of place.

CHESHIRE, but especially *CHESTER*, seems scarcely to have realised the national importance of that Battle until it was too old a story to evoke much ardent enthusiasm. Perhaps it was because, at the first announcement of the Elban Peace, of exactly a year before, the city had run wild with its church bells, its wax and tallow candles, and its frantic huzzas, only to find their prisoner shortly after at liberty again, and at the head of another and a powerful army holding Europe at bay.

The news reached London on the 22nd June, and it was brought to *CHESTER* on Friday, the 23rd, by the mail coach, which was decorated with laurels, flowers, and ribbons hastily gathered on the way down. The Cathedral and other bells were rung, but there was no illumination that night, so far as can be gathered from the local press. The *Chester Courant* of July 27th, (there were no 'second editions' thought of in those days, or the *Chronicle* might have forestalled its opponent) thus records the somewhat later and fuller news brought on the 24th.

"The glorious news of the Surrender of Bonaparte was received with lively emotions of joy and enthusiasm on Saturday night by the loyal inhabitants of this city. The London Mail arrived about half-past eleven o'clock, decorated with flags, &c., and was greeted by the loud and reiterated huzzas of the

citizens and others who had purposely waited for the mail's arrival. [The *Chronicle* adds, three days later, 'The horses' heads, the Coachman, passengers, and Guard were adorned with ribbons, and flags were displayed from the coach windows.'] A barrel of ale was afterwards given by Major Jones, of the Denbighshire Militia, (commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Puleston, and which had only just arrived in the garrison) at Mrs. Trevor's, the White Talbot, in Newgate Street. The bells of St. John's hailed the morning of Sunday with a joyful peal; and they were followed a short time after by the bells of the different churches, which rang several times during the day."

There was, however, no illumination, public or private, no corporate expression of thanks to the Almighty, and not even a salvo of artillery from the battery at the Castle, for the glorious news!

With the joy came the inevitable gloom attending all victories. The same day's *Courant* announces as amongst the slain, Captain John Phillips Buchanan of Hales, and a connection of the Massies of Coddington and Chester; Lieut.-Colonel Currie of the 52nd regiment, a nephew of Dr. Currie, of Chester; Captain Ashton, of the Grange, Cheshire; and this list was subsequently swelled by numberless others in the inferior ranks of the army.

Captain Walley on the other hand, son of Mr. Walley, of Princess Street, (and to whom there is, as there is also to Captain Buchanan, a monument in the Cathedral), by the fortunes of war got his company in the Battle; and many another Cheshire man reaped pension, or promotion, or honours, or all three, through that grand national Triumph.

EDITOR.

[708] CHESTER TO LONDON, BY COACH AND RAIL.

The distance from LONDON to CHESTER by the Mail Coach Road being 190 miles, the time taken up in travelling that distance was 23½ hours. The distance from London to Holyhead *via* Chester was 274 miles; but a new line of road was formed *via* Shrewsbury, shortening that distance by 14 miles, and consequently saving 1½ hours in time.

Now it is interesting to compare these hours of arrival, &c., with the shortening of the same during the last 50 years by railways.

As stated, in 1830 a letter took 23½ hours to be conveyed from London to Chester, whereas letters are now carried the same distance in 4 hours and 26 minutes; and from London to Holyhead in 6 hours 27 minutes, instead of 36 hours in the year 1830.

The change of conveyance from Mail Coaches to Railways was brought about very gradually, from various causes; yet so soon as the line of railway from London to Liverpool was completed, arrangements were made to despatch the Mail Bags from Chester to Hart-

ford Station by Mail Cart, and from thence by rail to London and intermediate towns. This change commenced on 6th July, 1837.

For some time previous to this change the London Mail Coach was superseded by Mail Carts, which were driven by the Mail Guards,—Brasher, Mould, and Harper,—names well known to many of the readers of THE SHEAF.

The Mail Coach from Holyhead continued to run, but going through Chester to Hartford Station until June 18, 1849, exactly thirty years ago; on which day Irish letters first commenced being forwarded along the Chester and Holyhead Railway.

Owing to the great importance of this line of Railway to Government, an agreement was made with the Company constructing it to pay it a given annual sum for the conveyance of Bags by a train leaving Chester at 10 25 p.m., reaching Holyhead at 1 30 a.m.; returning therefrom at 1 35 a.m., reaching Chester at 4 40 a.m.

This Train is still continued and the stipulated sum paid, altho' for many years it has been useless to the Post Office; other hours and arrangements being made for the conveyance of the present great mass of correspondence by a later Train, which, owing to the great rate it travels, is commonly called "The Wild Irishman," and which leaves Chester at 1 o'clock, arriving at Holyhead at 3 5 a.m.

R. O.

[704] THE RIVER DEE.

In Hone's "Table Book," p. 480, is the following amusing *morceau* :—

"A CAPITAL EXTEMPORE.

To the Author of some Bad Lines on the River DEE.

Had I been U
And in the Q,
As easy I might B;
I'd let you C,
Whilst sipping T,
Far better lines on D."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[705] SHIPPING IN CHESTER RIVER, 1691.

I have lately met in the Calendar of STATE PAPERS FOR IRELAND the following which may be interesting to some of your readers :—

"Memorial from the Commissioners for transportation to be laid before the Lords of the Treasury, dated 5th May, 1691, for payments. That they had orders to take up ships at Highlake (Hoylake), to transport 700 mount horses and riders, and at Biddeford, ships for 800 horses and riders—the charge of which was computed at £2958 15s.; but they found it was insufficient, as they could not find ships in Liverpool and Chester for above 200 horses; that they must take the rest up, if possible, at Whitehaven and send them to Highlake."

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

Queries.

[706] HUGH LUPUS, EARL OF CHESTER.

There is a curious plate in King's *Vale Royal*, designated "Hugh Lupus, Earle of Chester, sitting in his Parliament with the Barons and Abbots of that Countie Palatine." The Earl is seated upon a throne, and is supported by his sword bearer and another person holding in his right hand (but pointed downwards) a sceptre (probably). On the right hand of the throne sit four Abbots, and opposite to them four Barons; and in front of the Earl—but at the extreme end of the room, a scribe is seen sitting at a table, and beyond him, outside a bar, a crowd of men are standing as if they were present to listen to the proceedings. The whole affair, so far as the plate is concerned, is no doubt *ideal*, but we may suppose it based upon some historical fact; the existence of which is necessary traditional, but so interesting, that if the story intended to be conveyed to the eye can be made plain to the understanding, we may trace in it the germ of the open Court which is portrayed to us in the sittings of the House of Lords when the Sovereign is present in person. The idea of the picture is, that Hugh Lupus sat upon his throne, with Barons and Abbots as his advisers, a scribe to record the proceedings, and that *this Council was an open Court*. Where is the record of this fact? Where the statement that he ever had his Abbots and Barons in attendance upon him? Who were they? And what ground is there for implying that if all this were true, the public could attend upon the sittings in Council? I am not raising these questions in the spirit of cavil, but solely from a desire to see the matters mentioned cleared up, and if possible made plain to every student of our local history. Some writer in *THE SHEAF* may be able to tell us more than can be found in *King*.

GLADWYN.

[707] CROSS ON WOODHEY GREEN.

Woodhey Green stands about one mile S.W. of the village of Faddiley, near Nantwich.

There is a "four-lane-end" here, one to Faddiley, one to Woodhey Hall in an opposite direction to the former, whilst the one on the right hand goes to a farmhouse named Holywell House (pronounced by the inhabitants Hallywell House), and the one to the left to Cook's Pit and Larden Green.

Woodhey Green was, at one time, a large one, but recent improvements have curtailed it so much as to leave only a very little piece to represent the name.

On this piece, which is at the before-mentioned lane-ends stand the fragments of a cross, which when entire must have presented a respectable appearance. The present remains are two steps (the bottom one about

six feet square): upon these steps a large base stone is placed with the broken shaft of the cross dowelled into it. This base stone has been removed from its original position, and is leaning over some eight inches. Several of the steps are also drawn out of their places, a few of them some feet.

Can I obtain any information as to the purpose of this cross? The position of it leads one to suggest that it was a "refuge cross."

The country folk around that part say that at one time it was a market place, but that is, I think, only a piece of folklore. J. H.

Replies.

[708] THE WHIPPING POST.

[Nos. 281, 504.—Oct. 2, Feb. 5.]

The following extract from a Chester newspaper of April 24, 1789, will show how the punishment of Whipping in an open cart was publicly administered in your old city ninety years ago.

"Saturday last, Richard Hicks, John Morgan, and Sarah Hankins, were publicly whipped in a cart, from the city gaol to the Bridge, for the crimes inserted in our last. We remember, at a former period, mentioning our opinion respecting the impolicy (to say nothing of the indelicacy) of women undergoing a public punishment of this nature. One principal object which the law has in view in the mode of punishment, is, confessedly to *reclaim*; and whether exposing the half-naked body of a female to the gazing eyes of a multitude, is likely to effect that object, we submit to the better understanding of our rulers. Experience proves, that when the minds of women have retained even a spark of that native modesty which characterises the sex, public whipping has completely extinguished it, and they have been *taken from the cart with hearts much more capable of vice, than before they were fasten'd to it*. In the case of the above unfortunate creature (Sarah Hankins) she is said to have drunk a quantity of spirits, in order to drown what little sensibility she possessed, immediately previous to her punishment; and shocking to tell, not two hours after, actually stole a cloak, for which she was the same evening again committed to gaol; where she now lies, a dreadful example of the inveteracy of vice, and the inefficacy of human law."

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

[709] MRS DOROTHY LEIGH.

[Nos. 665, 689.—May 21, June 4.]

The family of the father of the authoress of *The Mother's Blessing* (of which work I have four editions) entered pedigrees at the heraldic *Visitation of Essex* in 1612 and 1634. The latter names the lady thus:—

"Dorathe, mar. to Ralph Leigh of Suseer, ar.," being daughter of Robert Kempe of Spainshall (near Finchinfield), Essex, Esqre., by Elizabeth, dau. to Sir Clement Higham, of Barrowhall in Co. Suffolk, Baron of the Exchequer, widow of one Edon. (*Hart. Society*, vol. xii., p. 231). Other authorities, as MR. NAPIER's note mentions, make RALPH LEIGH a Cheshire gentleman; and that origin is not at variance with the herald's entry above. The names of the children were not entered, but they are ascertained from *The Mother's Blessing*. The Kemptes were patrons of the rectory of Finchinfield, where they beneficed the celebrated Stephen Marshall. The neighbourhood was characterized for its earnest Puritanism, which was not without its effect on Dorothy Kempe, to whom (e.g.) the Christian names of her husband's lineage were of little account. Ralph Leigh's piety was as marked as that of his wife, for he expressed a lively concern that his children should be brought up godly. Some interesting family memorials might be ascertained from his will. That document left directions that his children should be well instructed and trained up in knowledge. If it be true that their son William became Rector of Groton, near Hadleigh, in Suffolk, I can add some further particulars. The gift of Groton Rectory was in the hands of the Winthrop family, and their estate in the neighbourhood, worth £700 a year, was sold by John Winthrop on his emigration to America. It is said that when the family and their associates left the village they kneeled down in one of the fields and committed the place and country to the blessing of the God of their fathers. This John Winthrop, when selecting a curate in 1626, said that they were about to fasten upon one Mr. Lea, or Leigh, whom he described as "a man of very good parts, but of a melancholick constitution, yet as sociable and full of good discourse as I have known. All the parish are very earnest with me to take him; but I have taken a little respite, because he is but a stranger to me, but well known to divers in the town. He was Mr. Simonds's pupil." (Leigh is occasionally named in the Winthrop correspondence, 1627-1630; as also (as "Mr. Leight dwelling in the house you sound Mr. Warren") in a letter from Emanuel Downing to John Winthrop, 4 March, 1647-8 (*Massachusetts Hist. Soc.*, vol. vi., 1863, p. 67). In the ninth chapter of *The Mother's Blessing*, the good mother, anticipating that she should not see the baptism of any of her sons' children, suggests some suitable names for them, which are Philip, Elizabeth, Anne, John, and Susanna; and it is noteworthy that William gave the name John to one of his children. Savage, who edited Winthrop's *History of New England*, says (vol. i. p. 347, note) that he had seen a letter of 13th May, 1628, from William Leigh at Groton, to the Worshipful his most loving patron John Winthrop, Esq., at London, announcing the birth of a son, and his baptism by the name of John, on Sunday preceeding, at which Mrs. Winthrop was godmother. Savage most carelessly con-

found this William with William Leigh, M.A., of Christ's College, Cambridge, who became minister of *Gorton* chapel, near Manchester, who died in 1664 aged 50. The wife of the Rector of Groton was Elizabeth Newton, a daughter of Gregory Newton of Lancashire, fellow of St. John's College 1590, curate of Barnwell, and sometime preacher of Bury St. Edmunds. The son John above-named became Rector of Outwell, Cambridgeshire; and there were two other children: Dorothy, who married William Thetford, a minister; and Mary, a schoolmistress in Bury.

Stretford, Manchester.

JOHN E. BAILEY.

JUNE 25, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

June 25.—Hugh Bellot, Bishop of Bangor, translated to Chester.....	1595
„ 26.—Sir William Brereton takes Eccleshall Castle	1644
„ 27.—The Mayor of Chester appointed one of the Commissioners of the Array	1637
„ 29.—Robert Cholmondeley, of Cholmondeley, created Baronet.....	1611
„ 30.—Hugh Cyvelioc, Earl of Chester, died at Leek	1182

J. H.

Original Documents.

[710]

MIDSUMMER SHOW.

MIDSUMMER EVE was always high carnival at Chester, from the time at least of the first setting out of the great Annual SHOW, which seems ultimately to have taken the place of the already waning WHITSUN PLAYS. The date at which the Midsummer Pageant was inaugurated seems to be pretty well settled by the following short extract from my ancient MS. Chronology of Chester Events, which has been frequently quoted from in *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF*. Under the year 1498-9, in the mayoralty of Richard Goodman, (the same who was made an Esquire by Prince Arthur during his two months residence in Chester in July and August, 1499), I find recorded that

"In this yeare the Watch vpon Midsomer Eve begonne."

The two gala days of WHIT MONDAY and MIDSUMMER EVE each held their own in the citizens' estimation for a lengthened period: but the latter ultimately ousted the former out of the field, owing to the Whitsun Plays becoming repulsive to the religious

feelings of the people as let loose at the Reformation. For as Archdeacon Rogers rather pertinently puts it:—

"This Midsomer shewe had diverse things in it which weare offensive in anohant times (as Christe in stringes, men in womens apparell, with divells attendinge them, call'd cuppes and cannes, with a divell in his shape ridinge there); which preachers of God's word, and worshipfull divines there spake against, as vnlawfull and vnmeete, with divers other things which are now reformed; but for the decencie of it now vsed it thoughte by all both decent, fitt, and profitable to the citie."

In proportion as the Whitsun Plays decayed, the Midsummer Show assumed greater prominence; and our Trade Guilds which had set forth the former, now tacked on to the latter some leading feature in the Miracle Play thitherto performed by each particular Company. Thus we find the BARBERS and BARBER SURGEONS' COMPANY, the members of which at Whitsuntide used to perform the play of "Abraham and Isaac," recording in their Minute-book the following Orders.

"Item, yt is further ordered and agreed upon by the saide Company, That vpon everye Mydsomer Even at the watch, at the companyes charge, the stewardest for the tyme beinge is to p'vyde against that tyme and tymes one to Ride Abraham, and a younge stripleinge or boy to Ride Isaacks; and they to be sett fourth accordinge to Auncient custome, as hath bene be fore tymes vsed in the saide companye; and the saide stewardest for the tyme beinge to doe their best in the settinge fourth of the saide shewe, for the better credit of the saide societie and companie."

"Item more, it is further agreed vpon that everie brother of the sayd companie shall vpon everye mydsomer even, against the watch, attende vpon the aldermen and stewardest for the tyme beinge; and everie one of the saide companie to have his man eyther in armour or otherwise accordinge to auncient custome as other companyes vse, & soe to repayer w'th theire shewe to the barres, where it is to be sett out, in paine to everie one that doth not p'forme this order to paye vnto the sayde companie in the name of a fyne.....ijs."

In 1681, the delirium of the Restoration still exciting the minds of the citizens, I find the Barber Surgeons recording in their Accounts:—

"Paid for a banquet	00 : 06 : 08
„ for the Cryer, at the bars	00 : 00 : 08
„ to the Musick & for Ribbanning	00 : 01 : 10
„ at Richard ffrauncisses at bringing the	
Childe hoame	00 : 00 : 02
„ at dressing of the Child [Isaac], in	
wine	00 : 01 : 10
„ to the fiddlers	00 : 05 : 02
„ for 3 paire of gloves, one for my	
Alderman, one the Child that ridd,	
and a p' for my selfe	00 : 04 : 08
„ the man [? Abraham] that led the	
horse	00 : 02 : 08
„ for bootes for the Child that ridd	00 : 07 : 00

„ to the man that hould the boy on	
horse	00 : 00 : 08
Spent at bringing us home	00 : 07 : 08
Given to the mayde that plaid on the	
Virginalls, to buy her a p' of gloves	00 : 01 : 00"

So much for the BARBERS; now for a peep at the Company of LINENDRAPERS AND BRICKLAYERS on the same business. In 1602 I find this, at that time, most incongruous brotherhood recording in their Minute Book the following order from John Ratcliffe, Mayor:—

"Whereas the Companie of Bricklayers within this citie are to be at charges in settinge forth of the SHOWE or WATCH at MYDSOMER of Balaam and Balaam's asse, wherunto as well the freemen of the Lynnen drapers, brickmakers, and bricklayers of this Cittie, as also the forerunners inhabitinge w'thin this citie, and usinge the trades aforesaide, have bene accustomed to bee contributarye. These are therefore to authorise Roberte Ridley and George Antrobus, Aldermen of the companie of Bricklayers, and Roberte Goodaker and Thomas Markes, stewards of the same companie, to collecte of everie of the said p'sons aforesaide all such somes of money as they have bene heretofore accustomed to paye, and as hath bene accustomed to bee collected towards the Charge aforesaide. Dated the xxijth of Maie, 1602.

JOHN RATCLIFFE, Maior."

Having duly recorded the Mayoral Order, the brethren themselves follow it up, on their own behalf, as follows:—

"That thereafter the said companie doth allow vpon Mydsomer even after the WATCH for theire drinkeinge vnto the stewards of the sayd companie the some of vjs. viijd.; and yf the said stewards for the tyme doe make any more charge, or exceed above the said some of vjs. viijd., the said stewardest to pay the overplushe themselves."

The payments for 1606 and 1608 include the following interesting items:—

"payd for Caringe of Balams Asse	vijd.
payd to the minstrylles	vijjd.
for stokengs, shewes, and glovs for the	
boye	iijs. viijjd.
for dressing of the beast	iijs. iiijjd.
It. for the bankett	iijs. iiijjd.
It. in drenk before the Washe	vjd."

Turning now to the Minute Book of the Company of DRAWERS IN DEE, i.e., the Fishermen of the city, a Guild which has now no separate existence, I find the following schedule of payments on account of the MIDSUMMER SHOW, with which the present timely article shall be brought to a close:—

"Disbursed of moneys by Mr. Wm. Buck, steward of the COMPANIE OF DRAWERS IN DEE, from St. Peter's daye in An'o, 1606, vsque St. Peter's daye An'o 1607.

first paid the clark his yeres Wag's	ijs.
pd. for making a new staffe for the bann'	xijd.
pd. for painting the staffe	vjd.
pd. for prunes	ixd.

pd. for a payer of shoes for the child.....	xxd.
pd. for a payer of stockings for the child..	xxijd.
pd. for a payer of gloves for the child	vjd.
pd. in seeking a chaine of gold iewells, & other necessaries for the child.....	xijd.
pd. for bread, beare, & cheese after the banquett	vs. viijd.
pd. for a quart of wine & suger at dressing the child.....	viijd.
for a pottell of wine at the banquett.....	xijd.
geuen to the Crier	ijd.
geuen to the prison's at the castell	vjd.
pd. for a salmon for the Companie at the banquett.....	ijs. ijd.
geuen to ij. footemen w'oh went with the child	xvjd.
pd. for musick at the Watch	iijs."

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[711] MIDSUMMER EVE AND THE WATCH.

The Annual "Setting of the Watch" on St. JOHN'S EVE in the City of CHESTER (June 23rd) was an affair of great moment. By an Ordinance of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of that City, dated in 1564, preserved in the Harleian MSS., a Pageant is ordained to consist of four Giants, one Unicorn, one Dromedary, one Camel, one Luce (Wolf), one Dragon, and six Hobby Horses, with other Figures. By another MS. in the same Library, it is said, that Henry Hardware, the Mayor, in 1599, caused the Giants in the Midsummer Show to be broken, and "not to goe the Devil in his feathers;" and it appears that he caused a Man in complete Armour to go in their stead. But in the year 1601, John Batolyffe "Beer Brewer," being Mayor, set out the Giants and MIDSUMMER SHOW as of old it was wont to be Kept. During the Commonwealth the Show was discontinued, and the Giants, &c., were destroyed. At the Restoration of Charles the Second, the Citizens replaced their Pageant, and caused all things to be made new. The four Great Giants were to cost £5 apiece, and the four Men to carry them, were to have 2s. 6d. each. The materials were to be hoops, deal boards, nails, old sheets, paste board, buckram, size cloth, and coloured shirts; also tinsil, tinfoil, gold and silver leaf, and colours of various kinds, *with glue and paste in abundance*. The provision of a pair of old sheets to cover the "Father and Mother Giants," and three yards of buckram for the mothers' and daughters' hoods, proves that three of these monstrous figures represented females. "Arsnick" is charged as put into the paste "to save the Giants from being eaten by rats," and is debited 1s. 4d. 20d. was paid to a joiner for cutting pasteboard into several images for the Merchant's Mount, which being made (as it

anciently was) as a ship to turn round, cost £4. *Strutt* says the ship was turned by means of a swivel attached to an iron handle underneath the frame [like the new patent tram cars started in Chester streets on Saturday last]. Then there was a new "Elephant, a Castell, and a Cupid," with his bows and arrows suitable to it. The "Castell" was covered with tinfoil, and the Cupid with skins so as to appear to be naked, and the charge for these, with two men to carry them, was £1 16s. 8d. The four beasts cost £1 16s. 4d. each; and eight men were paid 16s. to carry them. Four boys for carrying the four Hobby Horses had 4s., and the Hobby Horses cost 6s. 8d. each. The charge for the New Dragon, with six naked boys to beat at it, was £1 16s. Six Morris Dancers, with a pipe and tabret, had 20s., and "Hance staves, garlands, and bells for the attendants upon the Mayor and Sheriff, cost £1 19s." These preparations, be it remembered as before stated, were for the "Setting forth of the Midsummer Watch at Chester," so late as the reign of Charles the Second.

Exhibitions of this kind are aptly described in a dramatic piece, entitled "A Pleasant and Stately Morale of the Three Lords of London":—

"Let nothing that's magnificall,
Or that may tend to London's graceful state,
Be unperform'd,—as shewes and solemne feastes,
Watches in Armour, Triumphs, Cresset lights,
Bone-fires, balles, and peales of ordinance
And pleasure. See that plaies be published,
Mai Games and Masks, with Mirth and Minstrelsie,
Pageants and schoole feastes, beares and puppet
plaies."

Tenby.

H. F.

[712] FARNDON CONSTABLE'S RETURN, 1779.

The following is a true copy of the Constable of FARNDON's Return, of Persons qualified to pay the duty on Servants in his Constablewick, to a monthly meeting of the Justices of the Peace, held at the *Plume of Feathers* Inn, at Barnhill, in this county, on Monday, the 21st of June, 1779:—

"Poor FARN, that can't one Family produce,
That keep fine gaudy Servants for their use;
No Butlers, Grooms, nor idle Valets here,
But Farmers, acting in a different sphere."

Ledsham.

B. M.

[713] WIFE SELLING.

The infamous custom of Wife Selling in open market has recently received a fitting check from the magistrates of a not very distant borough. The following extract from the *Chester Chronicle* of April 24, 1799, supplies an instance of the custom, which, it may be hoped, is almost unique in local annals:—

"The men of Cheshire have often signalized themselves in the annals of courage and gallantry; an additional instance of which occurred a few days ago at Macclesfield, in this county, where an honest

farmer actually purchased the wives of two of his neighbours, in the public market; for one of whom he gave half a crown, and for the other, one shilling. This brace of brides he led home, their necks gracefully ornamented with halters, and introduced them into the presence of a first wife; where, *greater* even than *Alexander the Great*, the farmer enjoys the smiles of his *Rival Queens*, and, with his *Roxana*, *Statira*, and his third *Dalceinea*, is likely to feel every mark of *sincerity* from their tender hands which a *hero*, so moderate in his desires, can reasonably wish for. The farmer's name is *Twig*—a slender sort of appellation for so *herculean* an undertaking; and tho' it may signify the *pliability* of the man's mind, would not (as *Hamlet* says) "the praise have been more *germaine* to the matter had he been called *Oak*?"

Wrexham.

LANDWOE.

Queries.

[714] MIDSUMMER PLAY.

King's *Vale Royal* contains the following notice of a play which was acted in the year 1563, and during the Mayoralty of Sir Lawrence Smith, Kt.:—

"Upon the Sunday after Midsummer-day, the history of *Eneas & Queen Dido* was played on the Bood-Eye, and was set out by one William Croston, gent., & one Mr. Mann; on which triumph there were made two forts, and shipping on the water, besides many horsemen well armed and appointed." Is there a copy of this play in existence? J. H.

[715] OLD CHESHIRE CUSTOMS.

The utilitarian character of our own times may have its advantages in many respects, but it is desirable, at all events, that we should endeavour to keep in remembrance the old county customs which gave so much innocent pleasure to our forefathers. I have read of a custom prevailing at *KNUTSFORD* which is worth inserting in *THE SHEAF*. "On the marriage of any inhabitant of the town or neighbourhood, in addition to the common tokens of joy, the friends and acquaintances of the parties strew the streets with brown sand, and on this, figure with white sand various fanciful and emblematical devices, and over the whole are occasionally strewed the flowers of the season." I wish some of your learned contributors would supply us with further examples of OLD CHESHIRE CUSTOMS.

S. G. B.

[716] STONE SCREENS IN CHESHIRE CHURCHES.

Do any of the churches of Cheshire contain *STONE SCREENS*? I have not read of any, but if there be, I think particulars of them would be suitable for insertion in *THE CHESHIRE SHEAF*. J. H.

Replies.

FOOTBALL.

[No. 625.—April 23.]

I cannot find out when this game was first played in Cheshire: the earliest reference I can trace is in King's *Vale Royal*. It was during the Mayoralty of Richard Pool, merchant, in the year 1564, and the notice runs as follows:—

"This year there was a great frost, and the Dee was frozen over, so that people played at football thereon." J. H.

I know of no very early reference to this out-door game in our Cheshire annals,—I mean to the game as we now understand it, and as ordinarily practised by modern athletes. But I can point to a grim and most scandalous game of *FOOTBALL* once played in the old county, which in our own day would have, and very rightly so too, a serious ending for all concerned.

The Abbots and Monks of *VALE ROYAL* were at certain periods of their history at terrible loggerheads with their civilian neighbours, who occasionally took odd ways of shewing their feeling towards those prominent fathers of the Church. Here is a sample of their occasional amusements.

In the 14th of Edward II., 1320, a Commission was issued by the King to Robert Holland, Justice of Chester, to enquire into the death of John de Bodde-worth, a servant of the Abbot of Vale Royal; who was stated to have been murdered at Darnhall Abbey by certain brothers from Oulton. I have not seen the original record; but it does not at all follow that these "brothers" were necessarily monks,—I rather think the reverse. It would seem that poor John Boddeworth (or Budworth) had been zealous, perhaps a little too zealous, in his master's service, and exacting more than was quite agreeable from the amiable folks about Oulton; any way, he was on a day indicated in the record set upon "per fratres de Oldynton," and then and there barbarously killed. Not satisfied with this outrage, his head was cut off by the aforesaid brothers; and thereupon the savage crowd at once commenced a perfectly novel game of *Football*, using the gory head of the luckless servant as a ball, which they kicked about with great fury and agility. I see nothing in the abstract of the Records as to what was the result of the Commission,—let us hope that the majesty of the law was appropriately vindicated! G. T.

[718] WHYTEHALL, BLACK-HALL, AND GREEN-HALL.

[Nos. 655, 680.—May 14, 21.]

"W." having told us what he knows about Green-hall, I will now do the like for the two remaining mansions included in this Query.

And first as to **BLACK-HALL**. When, at the Reformation, the houses and lands of the various city monasteries were parcelled out and sold, the mansion, church, and grounds of the **BLACK FRIARS** passed into the hands of two or more favoured proprietors. Upon the land thus purchased and divided two good houses were in the 16th century erected, one of which, popularly known as the **Derby House**, still exists up a narrow passage near the north-west corner of Nicholas Street.

The other, with its fine garden adjoining, occupied the site of the house erected in the first quarter of the present century by the late **HENRY POTTS, Esq.** It was a picturesque timber mansion, of the orthodox black and white type so characteristic of Cheshire; and was in the 17th century a residence of the **GROSVENORS**, with whom, and with the **BROOKES** of Norton Priory, the ownership continued until it was purchased and pulled down by Mr. Potts. This was the **BLACK-HALL** about which enquiry was made as above, and I have seen it so described in ancient deeds.

WHYTEHALL was not strictly a Chester mansion, and must be sought for a couple of miles away, as I will now proceed to show. Somewhere in the vicinity of the **ABBOT'S WELL** at Littleton, near Christleton, was an estate that belonged to the Abbey of St. Werburgh at Chester. This property also had been purchased about the date of the Reformation by the local family of **WRYNE**, who figure more than once in the transference of church property within Chester itself at that hungry period.

In the "Appendix to the Thirty-ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, I find this Littleton property referred to, and its mansion of **WHYTEHALL** identified, in the following words:—

"1565, April 10. Anthony Chavallary of Wodhall, Yorkshire, son and heir of Ellen Wryne, late wife of Rafe Wryne of the city of Chester, executes a deed of sale to Alexander Coots, his heirs and executors, of his said Anthony's two messuages in Lytleton and Rowton, known as the scite where the *Whyte-hall* stood in Lytleton, with all the land, &c., in Lytleton and Rowton, sometime in the tenure of William Ryder, and then in the occupation of James Robynson."

The Anthony Chavallary described above as a Yorkshire man was the Anthony Chavallary, or Cavalier (or perhaps his son), to whom in 1554 a grant of arms was issued out of Herald's College. Of **ALEXANDER COUTS**, or **COTES**, as the name is most frequently spelt in our city records, a long story might be told: he was another of the rapacious traffickers in the property of the church, of whom there was in the days of Henry VIII. and his young son so prolific a crop.

T. HUGHES.

JULY 2, 1879.

Monthly Diary of Local Events.

JULY 2.—Lord George Cholmondeley created Baron Newburgh, in his father's lifetime	1716
" 3.—Old Watargate, Chester, began to be taken down.....	1788
" 4.—John Nutter made 9th Dean of Chester.	1829
" 5.—George Henry Law, D.D., consecrated 27th Bishop of Chester.....	1812
" 6.—Highway Robbery, with pistols, in Bridge-street row, Chester.....	1773
" 7.—Royalist garrison at Cholmondeley surrendered to Lord Denbigh	1644
" 8.—Earthquake felt at Bickley, near Malpas	1637
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[719] CAPTAIN FRANCIS SANDFORD.

THE SHEAF has already (Nos. 211, 417, 462, 527) given some interesting particulars of the gallant, nay almost insolently daring, career of Captain **THOMAS SANDFORD**, the captor of **HAWARDEN** and **BRETON CASTLES** during the Civil War, and who fell ultimately at the Siege of Nantwich in 1643.

We are now enabled by the courtesy of Mr. **SANDFORD**, direct descendant and representative of the elder brother of this redoubtable Captain, to give our readers verbatim copies of two very interesting Documents, still preserved as heir looms. They relate to the said elder brother both in blood and arms, Captain **FRANCIS SANDFORD**; and have been carefully transcribed by us from the originals lovingly treasured up at Sandford, in Salop, the seat of this loyal old family.

The earlier of the two relics bears date at almost the outburst of the great national struggle.

"Arthur Lord Capell, Lieutenant Generall vnder the Prince his Highnesse, of his Ma'ties Forces in the Counties of Worcester, Salop & Chester, and the six Northerne Counties of Wales."

"To Captaine Francis Sanford."

"BY VERTUE of his Ma'ties Commission vnder the great Seale of England to mee directed, & as LIEUTENANT GENERALL of the Forces abovesaid, I constitute and appoint yo'w, the aboue named Captaine FRANCIS SANDFORD, to be chiefe ENGINEER in all the partes, & Places vnder my Command. Hereby givinge vnto yo'w full authoritie, & power, all and enerie his Ma'ts Castles, forts, & works in the abovesaid Counties to suruey, And where need shall require for his Ma'ties service, and defence of

the place where such Castles, Forts & workes shalbe, them to amend & repaire, & such other new workes to contrinue & direct as yo'w in yo'r discreac'on from time to time shall thinke fittinge & requisite to be contriued & done. And in all the said parts & places, where Yo'w shall haue occasion to repaire, or of new to make such works as afore-said, To require and take fittinge materials for your vse, in the said seruice, payinge reasonable & fittinge Rates and prices therefore. As also a competent number of Workemen and Labourers to command and employ in such his said Seruice, payinge them vsuall and fittinge Rates for their workmanship and labour. HEREBY requiringe all Maiors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs of Townes, Justices of the Peace, High Cunstables, Cunstables, and other his Ma'ties inferior Officers, to be aydinge and assistinge vnto yo'w in the due execution of this yo'r authoritie. And you yourselfe to followe and observe such Commands, as for [the] time you shall receive from the PRINCE HIS HIGHNESSE your GENERALL, my selfe your LIEUTENANT GENERALL, and other your Superior Officers, accordinge to occasion and the discipline of warr. And in all things to demean and carry your selfe as vnto the Office and employment of an Enginier doth of right apperteyne.

Given vnder my hand & Scale the 20th day of March. 1642.

ARTHUR CAPELL."

Under this commission, Captain F. SANDFORD, whom Ieland refers to as "very well skilled in the making of warlike fortifications," would be the officer directing the works for the fortifying of Chester city and castle during the Siege; and there is little question that the flankers and outworks thrown up at that time round the northern and eastern confines of the city were actually projected by him.

The second Document dates forward three years in the sanguinary struggle, and refers to NANTWICH, where his celebrated brother, Captain THOMAS SANDFORD was slain. The words printed in italics are struck out of the original with a pen, as if that portion of the Pass were withdrawn by Sir William Brereton, the parliamentary general, prior to the document reaching the hands of FRANCIS SANDFORD.

"These are to desire and require all those whome it may concerne to suffer the bearer hereof, Mr. frauncis Sandford, to passe their seu'all Scouts and Courtes of Guard from this Garrison of Namptwich to the *Broad Oake in flint shire* and to Sandford in Shropshire, and back againe w'thin ten daies after the date hereof: Given vnder my hand at Namptwich, 12th of May, 1645.

WILL: BRERETON.

To all officers and souldiers
in service for Kinge and
Parliam't."

Countersigned on back,

"John Gobbett,
Will: Alexander."

NANTWICH, which sustained a lengthened siege from the Royalists in 1643, continued from that date until the Surrender of CHESTER the head-quarters of Sir William Brereton; and it would appear from this interesting Pass, that Captain FRANCIS SANDFORD was a prisoner there on parole, in 1645, when he had leave for 10 days to repair on private affairs to his ancestral seat at SANDFORD.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[720] ALDERMAN JOHN BOYDELL.

This enterprising London printseller, and quondam Lord Mayor, whose connection with Hawarden has been referred to in previous issues of THE SHEAF will be mainly remembered in Art for his sumptuous edition of SHAKSPEARE, in the production of which and its accompanying Plates, we learn below on his own authority, he invested the enormous sum of £150,000!

The letter here printed was written to his nephew, Mr. Jehn Thomas, surgeon, of St. Asaph, in the possession of whose descendant, Miss Thomas, of Rhyl, the original still remains.

Photography, through the Autotype process, has recently reproduced Lord Mayor BOYDELL's large editio of SHAKSPEARE in a portable and popular form.

"London, March 24th, 1803.

Dear Nephew and Niece,

I have sent by the Chester Waggon Eight Prints, Printed in Oyl Colours, directed to Mr. Evans, in Chester, desiring him to pay the Carriage, & send them to you on their arrival: please to accept them, from me,—hope they will please you & all your Friends. I have not sent any in colours into your parts,—they are Subjects that please to a great degree, both at home & abroad: there is a description with them. The five first are a Sermon in Prints, which improves the mind, and pleases the Eyes.

Mrs. Nicol mention'd some other Prints that some of your acquaintance wish'd to have,—I have no fine impressions of them. We are nearly finishing the great work of SHAKSPEARE, which costs one Hundred & fifty thousand pounds.

I am in hopes of seeing you all once more before I depart from this World, but cannot fix any time. I have put the Prices of the above on the other side, that you may acquaint any one that are desirous of having them.

Mrs. Lloyd joyns with me in Love & Compliments to you & all Friends,—

from your Loving Uncle

JOHN BOYDELL."

1. Providence	In Colours	8	8	0
2. Innocence, or Infancy & Youth				
3. Conjugal Affection				
4. Wisdom				
5. Happiness				
5 Gold Frames and Glasses, for do., 28s. 6d.		6	10	0
6. Last Supper, in Colours		2	2	0
7. 8. Tribute Money, and Comp'n		4	4	0
3 Gold Frames for do., 28s.		4	4	0
Case		0	5	0
		25	13	0
		T.		

721] THE DEAN'S LONDON JOURNEY.

In these days of rapid travelling the following may be thought curious, and, perhaps, amusing. The party consisted of a dignitary of CHESTER CATHEDRAL, his wife, and two daughters:—

"1792, October 2.—Set out from CHESTER at eleven o'clock in the chaise and pair. Arrived soon after three at NANTWICH, where we dined, supp'd, and slept. Arose at six, and were furnished with horses to Woore; proceeded with fresh horses to Eccleshall. Went on to the Swan at Stafford, where no horses were to be had, so proceeded to the next stage: fresh horses to the Swan at Litchfield. Papa powdered his head, and we went to Quire prayers, took a survey of the beautiful Cathedral, heard an Anthem excellently sung by two voices, tenor and contralto-tenor—8th Psalm, "Give Ear,"—walked round the Close, and returned to the inn, where tea and toast was prepared: supper at 8 o'clock, composed of mutton broth, veal collops, potatoes, turnips, tartlets, &c. Continued on our journey next morning, with a good pair of horses, to Coleshill, where we breakfasted, and proceeded to Coventry: thence to Dunchurch; went on to Daintry, where nothing happened till we got to Towcester—very bad ale for supper. Next morning set out with lame horses to Stoney Stratford, where we staid a short time, and walked to see Wolverton, the seat of Mr. Hare; who received us with such hospitality, he would not suffer us to go without dinner; consisting of eels, goose, mutton, pudding, and cheese-cakes, &c. Left Wolverton next day at seven o'clock, and arrived in London at half-past four. The journey cost us £11 10s. 6d. At five o'clock got dinner at the Orange Coffee House.

On Sunday morning went to Westminster Abbey, had an excellent anthem, and service; a doctor of music sang, in his hood. Monday: Went to the great Theatre in the Haymarket. The opera of "The Haunted Tower" was performed, and "All the World's a Stage." The house far exceeded the idea we had formed of its size and magnificence; Storace went as much beyond our expectations in singing, though we had so lately heard Madame Mara, and were formerly acquainted with the powers of Mrs. Bates.

After trying a pair of stays, and writing some letters, we took a coach to North Audley-street, a shilling fare; then walked on to Mr. Dix, a baker, in High-street, Marylebone, to get from him a direction to find St. John's Wood. Mr. Dix was in manner quite a gentleman, and seeing we looked fatigued with a long walk, insisted on our coming into his parlour, and set before us cold tongue, bread, butter, wine, &c., and two newspapers for Papa to read. When sufficiently rested, Mr. Dix sent his servant to shew the road across the fields to St. John's Wood, where we were joyfully received by our friends. In coming back we were greatly struck with Portland Place, Berners-street, and other streets and squares; Portland Place appears to be at least 30 yards wide. Dined at three on mackerel and beefsteaks; left the girls at school in Queen's Square, packed up, and got to bed at twelve.

Up at seven next morning, set out on our return at nine, and got to Wolverton, 53 miles, at half-past five; had excellent horses at every stage; never paid more or less than 6d. at the turnpikes. We much admired St. James's Chapel and Workhouses, close to the Tottenham Court Turnpike, and were much pleased with the new raised road up the Hill to Barnet. Met near that place the Duke of Leeds, Marquis of Salisbury, Earl of Donegal, going to attend the Drawing-room on Thursday. A few miles from Wolverton I threw out of the Chaise window some cold meat and bread to a poor man with a bag upon his back. He appeared to be a collector of rags, but his disposition must be ill-suited to the employment; for on my asking him to pick up my glove, which had drop'd out of the window, he said, 'I'll give you the glove; but as for your cold meat I'm in no more want of it than you are, and do not choose to accept it.' It is presumed that this proud leveller of conditions has been studying Tom Paine's book. Left Wolverton, proceeded to Rugby, 32 miles. Got there at 4-past three. Visited the clergyman; very earnest in collecting money for a new organ soon to be placed in Church. Saw his lady, who appeared to have a very superior understanding, but who is said to treat his children, by the first wife, very severely. Set out for Coventry. Got to Meriden about one o'clock, when we could not resist the temptation of a clean parlour, good fire, and a nice pigeon pie. After taking a bait, proceeded to Birmingham. Met an officer in the Blues quartered there, who said that the Jacobins at Paris ordered 20,000 daggers to be made in two months. The Birmingham sword cutlers, having obtained permission from the Master of the Ordnance, the Duke of Richmond, are now at work.

Set out towards home, with sandwiches and wine in the chaise pocket. Travelled to Walsall through extremely beautiful country and ornamented with a number of gentlemen's seats. From Walsall to Ivesey Bank, a long stage of 16 miles, the Inn at the Four Crosses being shut up. Arrived at Newport soon after six. Relished the tea, &c. Next day saw the Parish Church, and much pleased with the new

organ; the overture in Saul remarkably well play'd for us. Left Newport for Drayton. We heard a farmer near by was robb'd and murder'd, about a mile from the town, at eight o'clock at night. Proceeded on to Chester, from Drayton, by easy stages. At home October 24th."

Newton.

H.

[722] MOW COP DIALACT.
(Tenth Paper.)

ARRANT. An errand.

GOM, soule! the bodies guest,
Upon a thankelesse *arrant*;
Feare not to touche the best,
The truth shall be thy warrant.

—Sir Walter Raleigh. *Percy's Reliques*.

Possibly the word *arrant* in the foregoing quotation, appears in that form simply as an exigence of rhyme. I have seen the poem, of which the above form the opening lines, included in another collection and attributed to an unknown writer. In this latter collection the word is printed *errand*.

KITTLIN. A kitten. Icelandic, *kjetling*.

As cantie as a kittlin'.—BURNS.

PUN. To beat, to pound. A.S. *punnian*, to beat. The gritstone of this neighbourhood, which is now ground by machinery into sand, was formerly pounded by hand labour, chiefly by women who used small hand hammers. The operation was termed *punnin*, and the shed or hute, in which the work was performed, were called *punnin*' cotes.

In A. ii., S. i. of *Troilus and Cressida*, Shakespeare makes Thersites say: "He (Achilles) would *pun* thee (Ajax) into shivers with his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit."

SLATTER. Carelessly to scatter, or spill, or lose.

Ther were flayles al to **slatred*,
Ther wer scheldys al to *slatred*,
Bollys and dysches al to *schatred*,
And many hedys brokyn.

Percy's Reliques. The Tournament of Tottenham.

**Slattered, Slatred, Slit, breke into splinters.*

—Glossary.

In Dean Swift's 19th *Letter to Stella*, the following passage occurs:—"I dined to-day with sir Thomas Mansel. We were walking in the Park, and Mr. Lewis came to us. Mansel asked 'where we dined?' We said 'together.' He said, 'we should dine with him, only his wife desired him to bring nobody, because she had only a leg of mutton.' I said, 'I would dine with him to choose;' but he would send a servant to order a plate or two: yet this man has ten thousand pounds a

year in land, and is a lord of the treasury, and is not covetous neither, but runs out merely by *slattering* and negligence."

JILLIVERS. Gilly-Flowers.

SLIMP. Slim, thin. "A *slimp* young chap."

STAIR. Steep, hilly.

YERRY-FROST. A hoar (hoary) frost.

Mow Cop.

G.H.

Queries.

[723] EWLOE CASTLE.

Close to the border village of Ewloe, near Hawarden, lies a picturesque wood of the same name, a favourite rendezvous of the local botanists. On a mound in this wood stand the pretty ruins of EWLOE CASTLE, the date of the erection of which I am anxious to learn; and it would add much to the value of any Reply if the name of the original owner and builder could be also given.

A WOODMAN.

[724] MAYSHAM'S TOWER, CHESTER.

Where was this ancient Tower situated? I have referred to *Ormerod* and *Hemingway*, expecting to find it without difficulty in one or other of these local historic works, but have been disappointed. THE SHEAF has provided us poor uninitiated ones with a reliable court of appeal in matters of historic doubt. I hope, therefore, to learn something through its columns as to the whereabouts of MAYSHAM'S TOWER.

H. S. A.

Replies.

[725] A CHESHIRE MASTER OF THE MINT.

[No. 619.—April 16.]

I am unaware of any chronological List of the Masters of the MINT; but H. S. A.'s Query can, I think, be answered from another source. In COLLINS' *Baronetage*, 1720, vol. ii, p. 294, it is recorded on the authority of Sir William Dugdale that, in the 24th Henry VI., 1445, JOHN DELVES, of Doddington, esquire, then of the age of 23 years, succeeded his elder brother Richard in the Delves family estates:—

"Which JOHN DELVES was sheriff of the county of Stafford in 34 Henry VI. (1455); was constituted comptroller of Petit Customs at the port of the city of London in 49 Henry VI.; and the same year, that prince, out of his special grace and favour, granted to him and to John Langstrother, prior of

St. John of Jerusalem in England, as well the office of *Warden of his Mint* within the Tower of London, as of all other his Mints in England and Calais, to occupy by themselves or sufficient deputies, with the usual salary paid the 1st of Edward III. and Richard II. He was firm in his adherence to the house of Lancaster; and raising forces against King Edward IV., was declared a traitor, rebel, and enemy. On the 4th of May following, being then a Knight, he was at the battle of Tewkesbury, where he lost his life; and in the parliament held at Westminster, the year following, was attainted.

JOHN DELVES, the eldest son, being with his father at Tewkesbury Field, was there taken prisoner, and soon after beheaded, 11 Edward IV."

ORMEROD says of these two unfortunate Cheshire soldiers, father and son, that

"The younger Delves was one of those who fled after the battle to Tewkesbury abbey, where they were pursued by King Edward IV., who entered the church sword in hand; but being opposed by a priest, who lifted up the Host between the king and the fugitives, granted a promise of pardon; which he afterwards falsified, and two days after, on Monday, May 6th, caused them to be brought out and beheaded. SIR JOHN DELVES and his son were first buried at Tewkesbury, as appears by an entry in the registers of the abbey, quoted by *Leland* (vol. vi., fo. 93), viz. :—'*Joannes Delves ejus filius decapitatus ibidem una sepulti, alio postea translati.*'"

The word *alio* is explained by the following inscription on a monument remaining in the chancel of old WYBUNBURY Church, Cheshire, before it was rebuilt in 1591 :—

"*Hic jacet Johannes Delves, miles, et Elena uxor ejus, neonon Johannes Delves, armiger, filius et heres predicti Johannis; qui quidem Johannes miles obiit quarto die Maij, anno Domini mill'imo CCCLXXI. quorum animabus propitiatur Deus. Amen.*"

This monument relates to the "Master of the Mint" and his son, and to the wife of the former, viz. : Ellen, daughter to RALPH EGERTON, of Wrine-hill, who is recorded to have been "married by dispensation" to her unfortunate lord in 1489.

T. HUGHES.

[726] THE BOWSTONE AT LYME.

[No. 677.—May 21.]

The following Reply to the above Query is founded mainly on the description given of the monument by Ormerod, vol. iii, p. 282 :—

"On the hills in this part of the Forest of Macclesfield are two DOUBLE CROSSES, the use of which is unknown, but which were probably mere-stones or boundary marks of the districts of the Forest; for similar ones occur on the opposite Derbyshire hills, within the verge of the ancient forest of the Peak.

The first of these, situate at a gate of Lyme Park, to which it gives name [from *lime*, a boundary] nearly two miles S.W. of Disley, is called the BOWSTONE, and consists of the remains of two circular pillars, fixed into sockets, hewn in rude stone. The pillars measure about four feet in circumference near the base. The taller one is about the same height; the other, ten or twelve inches lower. An indication of a small fillet, which has been cut near the top of each, round the pillar, is the only ornament which can be traced. The hill on which this cross stands commands an almost boundless view over Cheshire to the east."

There is a woodcut of this BOWSTONE Cross, forming a tailpiece to the description of Macclesfield Hundred in ORMEROD's *Cheshire*, vol. iii., p. 419.

H. S. A.

JULY 9, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- | | |
|--|------|
| July 9.—Rowton and Morhall's Chester Bank stopped payment | 1810 |
| " 10.—Sir Watkin W. Wynn, Mr. and Mrs. Boycott, and others, came to Chester, dressed in character from the <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> | 1775 |
| " 11.—Sir William Williams, Recorder of Chester, died | 1700 |
| " 13.—Henry Bridgeman, D.D., installed 14th Dean of Chester | 1660 |
| " 14.—John Wesley preached at Chester on this and following day | 1789 |

J. H.

Original Documents.

[727] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS. No. VIII.

THE LIGHT HORSE.

Frequent mention is made in our scattered local records, as well as in parochial and other accounts, of the "LIGHT HORSE" of Cheshire. The Register Books of the SEE, the records of the DEAN AND CHAPTER of Chester, and those of many of our country parishes, reveal the fact that the Church was in the 17th century a Church Militant in spite of itself, Bishops and Deans and country Rectors not being exempt from contributing towards the national defence.

The Document we print to-day affords us a notion of what the *materiel* of the "Light Horse" was like; and

it gives us the names, not only of the country gentry and clergy who were compelled to provide the men, horses, and equipments, but also of the men themselves who actually served. There were apparently two troops of Light Horse in the county: one provided by the Hundreds of Wirral, Bucklow, and Macclesfield; and the other by those of Broxton, Northwich, Nantwich, and Edisbury. It is of this latter Troop, commanded by SIR PHILIP EGERTON in 1666, that we here give the names of the Troopers or 'Eydere,' as well as of the gentry responsible for their equipment.

A List of the Names of all the Gent' that stand Charged to find horsemen and Armes vnder the Command of the Right Wor'p'll Leiveten't Coll': S'r Philip Egerton, K't: with the Names of the Souldiers and Number of horse every gent' stands charged to find.

S'r PHILIP EGERTON, Leiveten't Coll':

JOHN PHILIPS, Leivetenant

CHARLES COTTON, Cornett

WILLIAM BROCKE, Quarter mast'r

Corporall Cumberbach

Corporall Snell

Corporall Cooper

Peter Penckstone } Trumpetters

William Ridgway }

Francis Adshed, Cler'.

BROXTON HUNDRED.

Rydere Names.

L'd Bishop of Chester.....	1.
L'd Cholmondeley	3. Francis Adshed
	Randle Walker
S'r Thomas Grosvenor	1. Richard Edwards
The Lady Talbott	1. John Kellshall
The Lady Calveley	1. Samuel Dickenson
The heirs of Charles Walley	1.
Peter Dutton, Esq'r and	
Edward Bradshaw, of	
Chester	1. Richard Tilston
John Hurleston, Esq'r, and	
Wm. Brooke, of Vpton,	
gent.	1. Richard Willdigge
The Parsons of Malpasse ...	1. Rich: Cartwright
Rich: Alportt, Esq'r, Thos.	
Stockton, and John	
Catherall of Horton, gent.	1. John Steane
Randle Dod, and John	
Leech, Esq'rs, and George	
Bird, gent	1.
William Barneston, Edward	
Bromley, Esq'r, and Thos.	
Tanatt, gent.....	1. Alex. Cartwright
Roger Puleston, Esq'r	1. George Morgan
Henry Harpur, Edward	
Spencer, and Thomas	
Willcocks, gent	1. Wm. Sharman
The Ministers of Waverton,	
Doddleston, Oldford and	
Tattenhall	1.
The Deane and Chapter of	
Chester	1.

NORTHWICH HUNDRED.

Lord Brereton	3. Thomas Ashton
	Wm. Gorst
	John Cottingham
The Baron of Kinderton ...	3. John Millington
	John Beasley
	Joseph Venables
S'r John Ballott, bar'tt	1. John Hilditch
S'r Jeffery Shakerley, K't....	1.
Henry Mainwaringe, Esq'r .	1. Samuel Bale
George Davenport, Esq'r....	1. John Snelson
William Lawton, Esq'r, and	
Tho: Smethwicke, gent....	1. John Smith
Somerfeld Oldfield, Arch-	
dale Palmer, and Mr.	
Stephens, of Wheelocke,	
Esq'r	1. George Malbon
Mr. Moreton of Hulme-Wal-	
feld, John Ampson of	
Middlewich, and Mrs.	
Hone [? Done]	1. George Wright
The Parsons of Astbury,	
Warmincham, and Daven-	
ham	1. James Statham
The Lady Whittmoore,	
X'pofer Benon, and Mr.	
. . . Brookes	1. Henry Booth

NAMPTWICH HUNDRED.

S'r Thomas Wilbraham,	
bar'tt	3. Randle ffryar
	Peter Cooke
	John Walton
S'r Thomas Delves, bar'tt...	3. Hugh Hampton
	Thomas Reeve
	Richard Owen
S'r Thomas Mainwaringe,	
bar'tt, and Sir Edward	
Minshall, knight.....	2. Tho. Wainewright
	John Bemisson
S'r Thomas Smith, bar'tt ...	1. Richard Cooper
S'r Robert Cotton, K't	1. John Cleay
John Crew, of Crew, Esq'r.	3.
George Vernon, of Hasling-	
ton, Esq'r	1. Thomas Price
Bog'r Wilbraham, of Dar-	
fold, and Roger Wilbra-	
ham, of Namptwich,	
Esq'rs	2. John Hatton
	John Whitley
Parson of Bartomley, and	
Vicar of Acton.....	1.

EDSBUERY HUNDRED.

S'r Philip Egerton, K't	1.
Thomas Cholmondeley, of	
Vale royal, Esq'r.....	2. Tho. Billington
	John Darlington
John Crew, of Vtkinton,	
Esq'.....	1. John Golborne
My L'd Chiefe Justice	
Bridgeman, and George	
Spuratsowe, Esqr	1. George Snell

Thomas Lea, Esq'r, and
Mrs. Warburton, of
Grange 1. John Trench
S'r Peter Pindar, bar'tt,
Jonathan Bruen, Esq'r,
and his Sonne..... 2. John Johnson
John Beckett

Darcy Savadge, Esq'r, and
Mrs. Ann Mosely, for
Darley Hall 1.
George Davenport, Esq.,
Mrs. Aldersey of Spurs-
towe, and Mr. Bradshaw,
of Elton..... 1. John Pike

Mr. Davies, of Ashton Mr.
John Davis, Mr. Jo.
Travers, and the young
Wid' Hardware 1. Henry Gatliffe

The p'sons w'thin named are charged w'th ye
p'portions of horse affixed unto their names: and
this daye Confirmed by vs. Witness our hands
and scales y's 11th of July, 1666.

© Derby
© R: Cholmondeley
© J: Arderne
© P: Laycoaster
© R: Brooke."

We ought to add that the foregoing Document comes,
like its predecessors in our Cheshire Lieutenancy series,
from the collection of SIR PHILIP EGBERTON, M.P.,
at Oulton Park. The List contains many names of
local historic note, and there is scarcely a Cheshire
family, of any standing in the Hundreds named, which
is not more or less associated with this interesting
Record.

There are some vacancies in the column shewing the
"Byders' Names:" these will be, most of them,
accounted for in Documents we shall hope to print in
our next issue. EDITOR.

NOTES.

[728] WHITNEY'S EMBLEMS, 1586.

CHESHIRE has never in its history produced a great
national poet; and even those of second-class or lyric
rank are all but conspicuous by their absence. Of
these, Heber, Jackson, Newton, Warburton, Bradshaw,
Cowper, and Massie, and, among the smaller fry,
Randle Holme, Greswell, Bowdon, Bradford, Venables,
Burganey, Helen Leigh, and a few others even less
known, are all that I can at a moment bring to mind.

Here, however, as in most other English counties, the
Elizabethan was the golden age; and it was at that date
that GIFFREY WHITNEY, a native of Coole Pilate,
near Wrenbury, and a member of a highly respectable
yeoman family of long continuance there, gave to the
world

"A CHOICE OF EMBLEMES, AND OTHER DEVICES,
For the mooste parte gathered out of sundrie writers,
Englisbed and Moralized, and divers newly devised,
by GIFFREY WHITNEY. . . . Imprinted at
Leyden, in the house of Christopher Plantyn, by
Francis Raphelengius, 4to, MDLXXXVI."

I shall not quote passages from the book itself: and
this is the less necessary seeing that an excellent and
exhaustive paper "On Whitney and his Emblems," by
the late Rev. HENRY GREEN, the historian of Knuts-
ford, was published some years ago in the Chester
Archaeological Society's *Journal*, and is thus accessible
to most readers of THE SHEAF.

It is to a copy, slightly imperfect, of this work in the
library of West Hall, High Leigh, that I would
specially refer to-day. Mr. GREEN, when editing his
sumptuous reprint in 1866, had access to this copy, and
transferred to his Introductory Dissertation one or two
of the MS. scraps inserted in the volume by former
owners; and I shall take the present opportunity to
put the whole of them on record.

The copy had belonged to JOHN ALLEN, of Balliol
College, Oxford, a contemporary of WHITNEY, and who
seems to have shared with him his affection for the
Muse. Here is a sample of his quality:—

"Begone rare worke! What though thy Author bee
Nor lord nor knight, yet comprehendeth more
In vertuous deeds then titles, as wee see
Which better is then all rich Midas' store:
Tell Momus and old Homers chattering all
Till [the] World's end thy name shall never fall.
JOHN ALLENUS,
Coll: Balliol'."

Again, paraphrasing the above, Mr. ALLEN thus in
another stanza writes:—

"Ffarewell, rare [Book of] Emblems, take thy flight!
What though thy Author be nor lord nor knight,
Yet in him theare is comprehended more
Then Man hath Titles, or the ocean shore."

On a blank leaf at the end of the First Part, the
following Anagram occurs:—

"IN GALFREIDI WHITNEI EMBLEMATA.
G effry, thy name subscribed with thy pen
E xtractinge honor from the noblest men
F or by thy Emblems thou dost moralize
F ram'd Poems fitted for all human eyes
R effectinge on the naturall state of man
E nvyinge at none, assistinge whome he can
Y ealdinge such frutfull rarities that all
W hich Whitney knew may wittely him call
H onor'd of men!—what can theare more be said
I n givinge due, wheare due ought to be paid.
T estis his workes, which heare but veiw & read,
N ot with a single eye, but feare and dreade,
E nvy's set forth, all other crimes displayd,
Y ea, in this worke ar sure foundations layd.
W hearfore like Momus 'gainst him doe not cry,
Though WHITNEYS dedd, yet's nameshall never dye.
Sic oecinit JOH'EM ALLEN:"

Mr. GEMEN, in his reprint of WHITNEY, has quoted a portion of the above, omitting four whole lines, having evidently failed to recognise their Anagrammatic character. On another page is found the following couplet, in apparently an older hand:—

"Where will doth rule, ther wit doth want,
And will pulls up what wit doth plant."

The High Leigh copy (from which I have here been quoting), belonged later on to one "John White, his Book, A:D: 1683;" whose successor William White gives the following not very charming character of himself:—

"William White his hand
So veri a roge as ani in the land."

And again, as if anxious to display his strong Orange proclivities,—

"William White, His Name and Pen,
God bless King William and all his men!"

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[729] BORDER AUTHORS.

I should be glad if any of your correspondents could give me some information about the authors of the following works. I have arranged them according to the dates of their publication:—

1635. *Powel Thomas*, "The Art of Thriving, or the plain pathway to Preferment, with the Myserie and Misery of Lending and Borrowing."
1651. *Hunt Nicholas*, "New Recreations, or, a Rare and Exquisite Invention for the exercising of Acute Wits."
1682. *Herbert Arthur*, "Articles of Peace and Commerce Between Charles II. and the Bashaw, Dey, Aga, and Governours of the Famous City and Kingdom of Algiers."
1825. *Venables (Col.)*, "Experienced Angler, or Angling Improved."
1832. *W. (W. F.)*, "The Story of the Old Woman of Delamere Forest."

I want to know, if possible, when and where they were born, and what other works they wrote.

G. A. S.

[780] A CHESHIRE SERGEANT'S WEDDING.

The *Salopian Journal* of Dec. 12, 1804, amongst its announcements of Marriages has the following:—

"Monday last at Nantwich, Mr. Scholfeld, sergeant of the Army of Reserve, to Miss Bossey Hallwood of Beam-bridge. This marriage being against the consent of the lady's friends, the brother of the bride actually stript to fight the parson in the church for marrying them, who was obliged to procure constables to keep the peace during the

nuptial ceremony; after which the bride was borne off in triumph by the bridegroom under one arm, and a corporal of the regiment under the other, to the no small gratification of a large concourse of spectators."

A. B.

Replies.

[731] OLD PLANS OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 233, 881.—August 28, Nov. 20.]

One of the most interesting, as it is perhaps the most ancient of the engraved Plans of CHESTER, is the one that appeared in Braun's *Civitates orbis terrarum*, published at Cologne ("Colonie Agrippinæ") in 6 vols. folio, between the years 1523 and 1618.

The Plan is No. 3 in vol. iii., and measures 14½ in. by 12½ in. It is headed "CESTRIA vulgo CHESTER Angliæ civitas," and bears along its upper and its left hand borders the Royal, Episcopal, and Civic Arms, together with those of the Earls of Chester. The date of this volume is 1616, that of the preceding being 1575. We may fairly assume the plan to represent the City as it was during the closing years of Elizabeth's reign—the latter part of the 16th Century:—this is to some extent corroborated by the costume of certain figures depicted on the lower part of the engraving.

The Plan is a bird's eye view of the City, as it would have appeared from the south side. The river channel (lettered "Dea fl. vulgo Dee") is shown to flow close up to the Water gate ("Porta ad aquam"), on either side of which several boats and small ships are moored; it then runs parallel and close to the Wall as far as the Water Tower ("Turris nova"), which is surrounded by water, some portion of which runs through two large arches in the masonry connecting this Tower with the main Wall; near this is represented a large three-masted ship with high poop. The Bridge ("Pons") over the Dee is defended at the Handbridge end by a strong entrance gateway, to the West of which is a mill with one wheel. One with two wheels occupies the site of the present Dee Mills. In the Wall, close to the Eastern side of the Bridge gate ("Porta ad pontem"), is an archway from which water is issuing: may not this have been the termination of one of the subterranean Canals alluded to by Stukeley? (vide SHEAF No. 660). The "Brod eis" has on it a Cross elevated on a base of three or four steps, and guarded by pillars at each corner.

The following Latin description of the river is contained in a decorated frame near the right hand corner of the Plan:—

"Hoc flumen Dea dividit Angliam et Wallia'
Oritur in Wallia septentrionali & cursum suum
tendit in locum Tegesam proprie vocatum
Quo in loco quoddam piscis est genus quod haud

vnquam flumen venatut neq' Salmones (quibus flumen abundat, veniunt in Lacum prædictum."

The Walls are embattled. The four principal gateways, as well as the one at "The barrs," each consist of two castellated towers, with an archway for the road between them, those guarding the Dee Bridge having a portcullis. Between the East gate ("Porta ad Orientem") and the Barrs is "Forijet platea," out of which branches "Cowe Lane," leading to green pastures occupied by cattle. On a mound at Boughton is a gallows, and beyond this the road bifurcates into the "Via ad Tarnen" and the "Iter ad Wicum malbanu'."

The most interesting feature in connection with the Walls is the presence on their outer boundary of a deep ditch or fosse, which commences at the Eastgate, and extends from thence along the whole line of the North Wall to the Water Tower, the greater part of which at the present day is represented by the Canal. It is more than probable that this was the old Roman fosse, and which originally extended along the entire eastern side of the city to the Dee, thus completing the defences on the land side.

The Pepper gate ("Porta noua") and the Ship gate are shown as square towers; but there is no indication of the Kale-yard gate.

In front of St. Peter's Church ("S. Petrus ad cruce alta"), the four principal streets bear their present names; but the upper part of Bridge-street is called "Mercers Rowe." This is the only Row alluded to, and, as far as I have yet been able to ascertain, is the earliest mention of this now well-known Chester peculiarity. Princess street appears as "Persaus cane"—evidently Parsons lane, a name given to it in the time of Edward 3rd. (Vide Hemingway's *Chester*, vol. i., p. 404.)

In the present Whitefriars some buildings are labelled "Ruinoes fratrum ecclesia," whilst on the opposite side of "Bridge Strete" appears "Peper Strete." The Cathedral ("S. Warburg ecclesia Cathedral") and St. John's ("S. Johanna") are shown: the former in a wide open space, the latter without any indication of the Priory ruins. Also the Castle ("Castrum") and St. Mary's Church ("S. Maria super mo'tem"). Within the Walls large gardens are figured in the rear of all the houses, as also in those at Hand-bridge ("Suburbia Honbridge apellata") and beyond the Northgate ("Porta Septentrionalis"). Two houses only appear on the western side, and these are situated in large grounds. On the opposite side of the river and facing the Shipgate are shown the "Ruinoes domus Comitiss Cestriensis."

These include all the principal noteworthy features of this interesting Plan. There is a long Latin account of the city at the back of the engraving, and a short one in the index. I may add that, as a matter of purely local interest, the first attempt at photo-lithography in Chester was made in 1864, and was a copy of the very Plan just described. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

[732]

OLD CHESTER CHARACTERS.

SAMMY BURROWES.

[No. 546.—Feb. 25.]

Sammy Burrowes was born at Ravensmoor, near Nantwich, on the 28th of June, 1772, and died in Chester, on the 20th of October, 1835. He was bred a butcher, afterwards servant to a surgeon, then employed in the press gang; and in later years his principal calling was that of rat or mole catcher, in both of which he was very skilful. For the last 24 years of his life he filled the dignified office of "finisher of the law" for this district, and in the course of that time he "turned off" 58 persons.

Ledsham.

B.M.

[733]

THOMAS HARRISON, ARCHITECT.

[Nos. 588, 612, 629, 662.—March 26, April 9, 23, May 14.]

I think it is right I should state, before this subject is dismissed from your columns, that I have just found in a book called *The Stranger in Shrewsbury*, the following passage relating to Lord Hill's column:—"The original design is by Mr. Edward Haycock, architect, of this town, with some alterations in the pedestal by Mr. Harrison, of Chester." Your correspondent VERITAS said that Mr. Harrison erected a Doric column at Shrewsbury in honour of Lord Hill," and as I failed to find any authority for this (any more than for the inference that because Moel Vamma Tower was a mere local affair it could not be artistic), I referred to published histories, and quoted them. The *Stranger* is the only one that mentions Mr. Harrison's name, and when I wrote, this I had not seen. Let me add that VERITAS has again read me hastily if he really thinks I had any intention to speak evil of the dead. When Temple Bar was taken down, criticisms on the artistic powers of Sir Christopher Wren were freely published in the newspapers, but no one, so far as I am concerned, cried out "De mortuis, &c."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. E.

JULY 16, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 16.—Chester Bishopric instituted	1546
" 18.—Siege of Chester commenced	1643
" 19.—Sir John Warburton, of Arley, made Sheriff of Cheshire for life	1508
" 20.—Chester Cathedral bells, then newly cast, rang their first peal	1604
" 21.—Lord Keeper Egerton created Baron Ellesmere	1603
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[784] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS.
No. IX.

THE LIGHT HORSE.

In fitting sequence to what we may call the 'field state' of the LIGHT HORSE OF CHESHIRE in 1666, as given in last week's SHEAF, we here print three Orders of the Court of Lieutenancy, in reference to the absentees and defaulters at the General Muster at Middlewich in September of that year:—

"Com. Cestr.

For S^r PHILIP EGBERTON, these.

"Forasmuch as the p'sons and'r written, all charged with A Horse, Horseman and Arms, have not sent in any horse at all, to the last Muster at Middlew'ch on Saturday last, having had due summons. These are therefore in pursuance of spetial directions from the Lord Lieutenant of this County to authorize and command you forthw'th to levy by distress or otherwise upon the goods of every of them respectively five pounds; and the same pay over unto one of the Treasurers of the Militia of this County, rendring to them the surplus after necessary charges for levying deducted. And this shall be your warrant. Given under our hands and seals at Northwich, Jul: 19th, 1666.

Mr. John Davies 5 li.

The Lady Calveley 5 li.

The Prebends of Chester..... 5 li.

S^r Tho: Grosvenor 5 li.

© P: Leycester

© B: Brooke

© T: Legh

© Tho: Marbury

© Tho: Cholmondeley."

The following Offenders seem by another Document to have sent mere hacks of horses to the Muster, and were ordered to be distrained upon as under:—

"Mr. Crewe, of Crewe, and the heirs of Mr.

Charles Walley 3 li.

Mr. Randle Dod, Mr. Leech, and Mr. Bird... 3 li.

The L'd Chief Justice Bridgeman and Mr.

Spurstowe..... 3 li.

Mr. Lea of Darnhall and Mr. Warburton ... 3 li.

The L'd Cholmondeley 3 li.

The parties undermentioned, having neglected to send in Arms with their men, "to wit, Rack breast and Pott," were mulcted as below:—

"The Lady Talbott..... 1 li.

Mr. Dutton of Hatton, & Mr. Bradchaigh of

Chester 1 li.

Mr. Hulston of piston, & Mr. Brook of Upton 1 li.

Mr. Alport, Mr. Stocton, & Mr. Katterall, for

not appearing in due time..... 1 li.

Sir Robert Cotton 1 li.

Mr. Vernon & Mr. Wettenhall..... 1 li."

It is to be presumed that these penalties were all or most of them collected in due course: but Sir ROBERT

COTTON of Combermere appealed, and successfully, against the decision of his brethren, as the following Document proves:—

"Forasmuch as there was formerly a Fine imposed vpon Sir Robert Cotton, for that his Trooper did not bring in his Armes at the generall Muster of the horse at Middlew'ch; and forasmuch as it appeares vnto vs this day, vpon Strict Examination, that the fault was not in the s'd Sr Robert Cotton, but in his Trooper. These are therefore to desire you, and it is by vs hereby ordered, that the saide Fine be taken of, and the Distresse which was Levied for Satisfieing thereof be forthw'th returned vnto the said S^r Robert Cotton. Given und' our handes at Northw'ch this 14th day of September, Anno regni Caroli s'c'di nunc Anglie &c. regis &c. dec' Octavo, Annoq' Dom' 1666.

P. LEYCESTER

HENRY LEGH

B. BROOKE

PE: BROOKE

THO: MARBURY

THO: CHOLMONDELEY

EDITOR.

[735] THE BOUNDS OF THE CITY OF CHESTER.

[No. 582.—March 26]

Three months ago, when printing the earliest known Document in which the BOUNDARIES OF CHESTER are set forth, we promised to reproduce, from time to time, the other and later Perambulations recorded in the ASSEMBLY BOOKS of the Corporation. The Record we then printed was translated from part of the Charter of the Black Prince (28 Edward III., 1355); the one we give to-day dates some two centuries later, and will be perhaps best, and beyond doubt most quaintly, introduced in the Town Clerk of that day's own language as follows:—

"THE MEYRES & BOUNDS OF THE CIRCUITE OF THE LIETIES OF THE CITIE OF CHESTER, newly viewed by HENRY GKE, mayre of ye same citie, by ye advyse & consent of his most auncient and discrete brederne, in ye second tyme of his mairaltie, & as ye same now be kno'ne and cauld. Anno. 31. H. 8 (1540).

THAT IS TO WITT, from the Iron brigge to Clau'ton high way, and so ouer the sayde waye to a certene sioke which goith through the medes of a grene croft of o'r sou'eigne Lorde the Kinge, Late of the monystorye of ye nones of the citie of Chester, & now in the houldinge & occupacion of one Matthew Elles; and so extendinge by a certeyne syche or dyche cauled the myre dyche, & otherwyse cauled the gray dyche, betwene ouer souersing Lorde the Kinges Land, late of the monystarye of the nones aforesaid vpon the northe p'tie, and the lands of Will'm lawrenson of the south partye: and this is the est ende of the saide gray Dyche; and at the West ende thens folowing the same Dyche lyeth S^r peres Duttones land of the northe partye and on' saide Soueringe lorde the Kinges Lands of the late nones Aforesaid vpon the Southe p'tye; and so from thens stright ouer broum-

feld hegh waye vnto A certeyn close in the Lordship of the laych, now o'r said Soueringe lorde the Kinges; and so foloinnge ther a lyke gray dyche vnto the west p'tye of a felde cauld Swartyne felde; and then folone the saide dyche northward tyll you co' to the erle of oxfords Lands, some tyme the Lands of Robt. Bradford; then folone an othe' lycke Dyche Westward, lying betwene the said Eles Lands on the North partye, and ouer ou' said sou'eigne ye Kinges Lands on the southe partye; and so foloinng a longe the same dyche betwene ou' said sou'eigne [Lord the Kings] Lands and the saide Erles Lands vnto you com to a dyche in ould tyme cauld a syche, which syche and Dyche goith northward vnto Kynarton Lane. the waye from Chester; and vpon the est partye of the same syche or dihe lyeth the said Erles of Oxfords Lands, and vpon the West partye of the saide dihe or syche lyeth our said Soueringe Lord the Kinges land; and ouer ye waye westward folone A lane through the toune of Layche betwene oure said Soueringe lorde the Kinges landes Late of the nones Aforesaide Lyinge on the West partye, and the said Erles lands being on the est partye; and so folone the same lane tyll you come to the Lane Poole in Saltney, otherwise called Blake Poole; and so folone the same Lane tyll you cou' to a place where A payre of galoes standeth, w'ch place is now cauld gallos poole; and so folone the same poule to you cou' to the reuer of Dee; and so on the reuer of De to poole brige, Which is now cauld Porte poole; and so folone That reuer to a stone bryge beinge in Molyngton high waye; and from thence vp A lytill aiche or reuer vnto Bayche poole; and from thens vp A Lytill syche or Reuer cauld Newton Broke; and so folone the same Syche or reuer vnto flokens Brouke, vnto A playce cauld bispediche, [and] is betwene the lands of the Kinges college of seynt Warbours of the cite of Chester on the south est partye, and the spittall felde vpon the north west partye; and so folone that Dyche Southward To the High waye from tarvin, vnto you' cou' to A certen dych of the est p'tye of the chappell of boughton; and folone that Dyche vnto A high way that leds from Chester towards Tarporley; and so ouer that high waye to A mere stone, Leuing the lepors housys on the West partye vnto the houlghe waye that Ledes vnto butt'rbsche vnder the hill of the Water of De; and so in foloinng the Ripec of that Water vnto hontyn-don Wod, and from thence vnto the Irne Brige Aforesade."

The BOUNDARIES as above traced occupy, in their description, just double the space taken up by similar details in the Black Prince's Charter to Chester; but the student will have little difficulty in reconciling the two, and in noting the changes which two centuries had effected in the ownership of the boundary lands. Thus, portions of the estate belonging in the earlier record to the NUNS OF ST. MARY'S at Chester had in the later days been confiscated to the Crown, and had come partly into the hands of Matthew Ellis and Sir

Piers Dutton; whereas the lands formerly owned by the BRADFORDS, had become vested in the Earls of Oxford.

The 'Land Pool' of 1355 had become the 'Lane Pool' of 1540; and the site of the 'payre of galoes,' with the 'gallos poole' adjoining, appears in the later record for the first time; 'Pulbrige' having in the interim taken its more modern yet now last name of the 'Porte Pool.'

'Stanen brigge' had developed into 'STONE BRYGE in Molyngton high waye'; and we are thereby reminded of a period when the present Mollington or Parkgate Road was non-existent, and when the present Saughall Road through Garden Lane, and over Stone Bridge, was the circuitous and only road to Mollington, Shotwick, Neston, &c. The BOUNDS for the remainder of their course are described in almost identical terms in both records.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[736]

A FLINTSHIRE DOLE.

Mr. Askew Roberts has the following laughable bit in his interesting "*Gossiping Guide to Wales*":—

"There is nothing in Newmarket to attract the tourist, but in connection with the church there is a charity, the conditions attached to which, if carried out in the present moral age, would get all parties concerned into trouble. The registers state that in 1712 Mr. Wynn, the owner of the whole town, "left the interest of £5 for the purchase of flannel for four old men and women;" and it would seem as if the donor had a dim presentiment that in the future doles would go to the lucky and impudent, rather than to the modest and meritorious; so he willed that it would be a mere toss up whether those who benefitted by the £5 deserved it or not, by ordering that the applicants for flannel were to draw lots, or "throw dice for it in the church porch!"

Mr. John Wynne, the donor, was a very eminent Chancery Barrister, and a ripe antiquary; a great friend to Wales and the Welsh, but evidently a wag, or he could never have hit upon so jocular a way of determining who should become the recipients of his gift. He was ancestor to our neighbour, Mr. Salisbury, of Glan-Aber, on the mother's side, and a bosom friend of the Rev. Matthew Henry, when that eminent divine lived at Chester.

S. R. W.

Queries.

[737] ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE.

Mr. Nicholson says that he saw at the Church of *Yrpytty Efan* three alabaster figures; "the first, is the

valiant Rhys Fawr ap Meredydd, of the house of Plas Jolyn; to whom at the battle of Bosworth, Henry VII. entrusted the standard of England, after its bearer Sir William Brandon had been slain; the next his son, Robert ap Rhys, chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey; and the third Lowry, wife of Rhys." Are they still there? *Rhys Fawr* being thus made historic, I should feel obliged if some of your Cambrian writers could tell me how the descent of Thomas Prys, the great poet who flourished about 1600, and was then living at Plas Jolyn, can be made out, from Rhys Fawr.

ENQUIRER.

[738] CRICKET IN 1805.—SHROPSHIRE v. CHESHIRE.

The *Salopian Journal* for Aug. 14, 1805, contains the following paragraph:—

"We understand a Match at Cricket is made, for 500 Guineas, between the Gentlemen of Shropshire and the Gentlemen of Cheshire; to be played at Atcham, on Thursday, the 12th of September next. Wickets to be pitched precisely at 10 o'Clock."

Further issues of the paper are silent on the subject. Did the match ever come off?

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[739] THE HOLES OF CHESHIRE.

I find in an old document now before me that a family of this name had been long settled in Cheshire. In 1384 one Hugh Holes resided at Chester; David Holes and John Hole, at Norbury in 1386; and Robert Holes at Hargrave in the year 1453. Can any of your readers give any fair account of this family, their origin, descents, and present representatives, if any?

ENQUIRER.

[740] PRINCE WILLIAM OF GLOUCESTER.

In 1803, when invasion by Buonaparte was imminent, Prince William of Gloucester made a tour of Wales and some of the Border Counties; inspecting the Volunteers in most places he visited. In a newspaper dated June, 1804, it is stated that "his royal highness has accepted the offer of the ROYAL CHESTER VOLUNTEERS to do the duty of that garrison." In what did that duty consist? On more than one occasion I find inspecting officers telling the Volunteer regiments with what pleasure they will be able to report progress to Prince William of Gloucester; and in December, 1804, when a Military Court of Enquiry was held in Shrewsbury to investigate the circumstances connected with an affray, the result was forwarded to "Prince William Frederick at Liverpool."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[741] RICHARD BLACKBOURNE, PAINTER.

I recently, while reading up an antiquarian subject which was then interesting me, met with the name of the above artist, who I gathered was a native of

Cheshire. Are you able to tell me anything about him, and to say in what particular branch of the art he excelled?

Y. O. M.

Replies.

[742]

THE LACHE BARRACKS.

[No. 594.—April 2.]

So far as I can learn, the names popularly given to the particular hovels referred to by your correspondent "H. L. P." were merely terms of ridicule or opprobrium, applied to them within living memory to mark their dilapidated condition as the rendezvous of sparrows "and other insects." They may possibly date back (my informant says) to the 17th century, perhaps even to the period of the Civil War; but there is nothing about them or their history to invest them with the smallest interest, much less to associate them with Sir William Brereton, or with either of the conflicting parties, Royalist or Roundhead.

L. L.

[743]

THE CASTLE-YARD, NANTWICH.

[No. 627.—April 23.]

Neither in PLATT's nor PARTRIDGE's *Histories of Nantwich* do I see any notice of the above. But perhaps the following short reference, which I have just met with in the 36th *Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, will sufficiently answer your correspondent's query.

"1341. September 19. Pardon granted in the Earl's Court at Chester to William de Bressey, for acquiring to himself and his heirs one messuage called "CHASTELYORD" in Wich Malbank, from John Lovel."

The LOVELS were for many generations large proprietors in Nantwich, and held the advowson of the chapel of St. Nicholas there.

T. HUGHES.

[744]

THE EARLDOM OF CHESTER.

[No. 636.—April 30.]

"H.S.A." has touched a curious point of precedence in his recent query. Ever since the EARLDOM OF CHESTER was taken over by the Crown, the Princes of Wales, our hereditary Earls, have of course naturally taken rank next the Sovereign. But before the Principality of Wales became vested in the blood royal of England, it would seem that, at all events in charters and deeds emanating from this side the border, there was at least one English noble who was accorded rank over, and in preference to, the Welsh sovereign Prince. Amongst the Charters connected with Poulton and Disulacress Abbeys, preserved in abstract in Harleian MS. No. 2060, folio 40, is one from

"Hithell, son of Rannulph, who releases to the abbot his right in the lands called Little Pulton. Witnessees, Rannulph Blundeville, Earl of Chester & Lincoln, Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, Hugh, Abbot of Chester, John de Orreby, &c."

No date is given for this charter; but as one of the signatures was that of Hugh, Abbot of Chester, and as he only governed that abbey for about two years, we may safely date it between the years 1226-1228.

G. T.

[745] **CHESTER BUTTER MARKET.**

[No. 692.—June 4.]

SAMUEL HOPLEY, the modest local rhymster about whom DR. BRUSHFIELD writes, was a resident of the township of Duckington near MALPAS, in this county. In the parish church-yard at Malpas, where he lies buried, his friends placed the following tombstone to his memory:—

"In
memory of Samuel
Hopley, poet, late of
Duckington, who left this
life in hope of a better, Septem.
the 11th, 1769. Aged 66."

A WOODMAN.

[746] **CAPTAIN FRANCIS SANDFORD.**

[No. 719.—July 2.]

A fortnight ago when presenting to our readers two very interesting Original Documents relative to the above-named gentleman, who was a trusted and distinguished servant of King Charles from the very commencement of the Civil War, we expressed our opinion that, in 1645, Captain FRANCIS SANDFORD was a Prisoner on parole at NANTWICH, before which town his uncle, Captain Thomas Sandford, had been killed during the royalist siege in 1643.

Mr. T. H. SANDFORD, of Sandford, the present representative of this Shropshire family, has now placed in our hands some very interesting papers bearing upon his ancestor's imprisonment, which we here in part print, reserving the remainder for a future occasion. The Pass granted as above was from SIR WILLIAM BRERETON, the commander-in-chief; the one which here follows comes from under the hand of the Governor of Nantwich garrison, Thomas Croxton:—

"Nanptw'ch, this vth of August, 1645.

I have given licence to Mr. FRANCIS SANFORD, prisoner in Nanptw'ch, to goe vpon his p'olle to HOULT or CHESTER, to procure the exchaunge of CAPTAYNE BRERETON, prisoner in Hoult Castle, or to retorne within a fortnight after the date hearof. Given vnder my hand the day aboue written.

THOMAS CROXTON."

From Nantwich, CAPTAIN SANDFORD seems to have gone, and very naturally, to his wife and family at Sandford; where he busied himself in writing letters to influential friends, and otherwise negotiating with the Parliamentarians, his captors, for his exchange or

release. Amongst others, he wrote to his kinsman, Robert Needham, second VISCOUNT KILMOREY, who was at the time in garrison at CHESTER with its gallant defender, LORD BYRON, urging an exchange for the Governor of Cholmondeley. Lord Kilmorey replies as follows:—

"Good Cosen,

Vppon ye receypte of y'r letter, I moned my Lord Biron in y'r behalfe. His answer is, that although S'r Gerard Eyton be not to be exchanged without an order from ye parliament, yet he dare not release ye gouernor of Chomley for y'r self or any other, without an expresse warrant from Prince Rupert, because his hygnes hath designed him for ye enlargment of of S'r Gerard Eyton. And besides, there are so many officers of this garrison that are now prisoners, that my L'd Biron conceyves he should be iustly lyable to ye murmuring and obloquie of ye Ccestrians [Cestrians], if he should give way to ye exchange of any foraigners before ye natives of this countie be first at libertie.

To conolude, there are soe many of this garisone prisoners with ye enmie, and we hane soe very fewe of theirs, that I doubt there is, for ye present, little hope of any good to be done for you here.

And therefore I would advice you to repaire to Worcester to negotiate there for an exchange. I knowe my sonne Charles will see his vtmost endeavors for you w'ith Prince Maurice; and if you think my L'd Biron's recommendation of you to ye Prince, by his letters, will facilitate your suite, I am sure you may obtaine it, or anythinge else that is in ye power of

Y'r Kinsman and servant,

ROBERT KILMOREY.

[Chester] August 9th, 1645."

The letter is addressed "For my much honored cosen, Mr. Franois Sandford, these."

Negotiations of this sort did not proceed rapidly in those days of difficult communication: it is not surprising therefore that the fortnight's leave, granted to him in August, came to an end before Captain Sandford could obtain his enlargement. Accordingly, we find him sending a messenger, Jehn Winn, to Nantwich, to beg an extension of his parole from Governor Croxton, who thus replies:—

"Nanptw'ch, this 18th of August, 1645.

Whereas I formerly gave licence to Mr. francois Sandford, prisoner in Nanptw'ch, to goe vpon his p'oll to Hoult, or Chester, to procure the exchange of Captayne Brereton, prisoner in Hoult Castle, which hee hath not yett effected. I am therefore content to enlarge his p'oll for the effectinge of the same vntill Tuesday, beinge the 26th of this moneth, otherwise to retorne prisoner to this garison of Nanptw'ch at that said tyme. Given vnder my hand this eighteenth of August, 1645.

THOMAS CROXTON."

At the foot is the following endorsement in Francis Sandford's own hand: "I payd Jehn Winn vntill the 30 of August, 1645."

Matters progressed badly for our prisoner, who, three months afterwards, was still at work vainly endeavouring his release. The following pass remains among the family papers at Sandford:—

"Suffer the bearer hereof, Mr. Francis Sandford, to pass yo'r scoutts and courtts of guard from this garison to Sandford, Twemlow, or to Broadoake, without molestae'on. And to returne to this garison of Namptw'ch w'thin foure dayes after this 8'o 9'bris, 1645.

THOMAS CROXTON.

To all commaunders, officers, and souldiers, and all others whom it may concerne."

How our Shropshire friend finally fared shall be told in a future article.

EDITOR.

JULY 23, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 23.—Peregrine Gastrell, Chancellor of Chester, died	1748
" 24.—Lord Ellesmere made Lord Chancellor of England	1603
" 25.—Thomas Mallory installed Dean of Chester	1607
" 27.—Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, died	1101
" 28.—John Speed, the historian, died in London	1629
" 29.—Byley Church foundation stone laid	1846
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[747] ST. OSWALD'S PARISH.

For various reasons much interest is felt just now in the history of ST. OSWALD'S PARISH and of its connection with the Cathedral. I venture to express the hope that some ears in the CHESHIRE SHEAF may have reference to this subject; and, as a beginning, I offer the following contribution from one of the old Cathedral Chapter Books. It comprises, as will be seen, first an application from the Parishioners for leave to erect a gallery in the South Transept, and secondly, formal sanction given by the Dean and Chapter for this purpose.

To the Reverend the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Chester.

Whereas there wanteth room in that part of ye Cathedrall which is now used as the parish church for ye parishioners of ye parish of St. Oswald in Chester, and whereas at a parish meeting in ye vestry

of ye same church upon 18th day of November last, it was agreed that a gallery should be erected in the said church att the charge of the said parish by way of assignment. And whereas the Dean and Chapter of Chester are the proprietors of ye said Church, wee the Vicar, Churchwardens and others, the parishioners of the said parish whose names are subscribed do hereby make it our request to ye said Dean and Chapter that they will in full Chapter consent and give leave that a gallery may be built in the said Church att the charge of ye said parishioners, and that the profit arising from the same by seating of parishioners there or otherwise shall goe for the benefitt of the poor of the said parish by equall portions. Witness our hands the twenty-third day of December, 1708:—

ARTH. FOGG, Vic.

THO. DUNBABIN } Churchwardens.
JOS. HATTON }

J. HURLSTON	WM. BENNETT
JAMES KENNA	EDW. BEEETON
CHARLES BOSWELL	JAMES BAGGULEY
EDW. HICCOCKE	RALPH LIGHTFOOT
WM. TAYLOR	WILLIAM BROMLEY
WM. WILLOUGHBY	JO. HULTON
RICH'D MADDOCK	THO. THOMASON
FRANCIS CRANE	HENRY JONES
SAMELL JARVIS	JOHN MATTHEWS
ROBT. CROSBY	MOSES MARSH
PETER BELL	CALVELEY SPEED
PETER PARRY	WM. GAULTER
JOHN CROUGHTON	JOHN WILKINSON

Nos Decanus et capituli' Ecclesie Cathedral' Christi et beate Marie Virginis Cestrie in domo nostra Capitulari capitulariter congregat vicesimo sexto die Septembris 1709 ordinamus ut sequitur.

That whereas the Vicar Churchwardens and others the parishioners of the Parish of St. Oswald in the City of Chester have agreed that a gallery should be erected att the charge of the said Parish in that part of the cathedrall church of Chester which is now used as the Parish Church for the said Parish, and have by writinge under their hands dated the twenty third day of December last past requested the Dean and Chapter of Chester that they would in full Chapter consent and give leave that the said gallery might be built in the said church at the west side thereof. We haveing taken the same into consideration doe agree thereunto, and wee doe hereby consent and give leave that the said gallery shall be erected in the said church for the benefitt of the poor of the said parish as by the said Vicar Churchwardens and parishioners by the said writinge under their hands is desired. And that an Instrument under the common seal do forthwith pass for that purpose.

Its testor.

L. FOGG, DECAN :

ROB. FOULKES.

JO: THANE.

No'rius Pub'cus, Reg'r. ARTH. FOGG.

G. CLOTTERBOOKE.

These documents seem to show that in the early part of the last century the South Transept was viewed as belonging to the Dean and Chapter equally with the

rest of the Cathedral, and that without their permission the parishioners did not regard themselves justified in erecting a gallery.

J. S. H.

July 18, 1879.

[748] **CHESTER CATHEDRAL BURIALS.**

The practice of intra-mural burial is now almost universally scouted, save in such classic ground as Westminster Abbey, where England loves to treasure up the remains of her honored dead. The custom dates back to the very earliest Christian age; and, save on the paramount ground that respect for the dead should not be allowed to peril the health of the living, is in perfect harmony with the natural affection and religious sentiment of Christians of every age and clime.

ST. WERBURGH'S ABBEY at CHESTER was a favourite place of sepulture in very early days, as the numerous memorial slabs taken out from the lower levels close to the rock, during the recent Restoration, very fully prove. The rule which had prevailed while it was an Abbey, continued after ST. WERBURGH'S was turned by Henry VIII. into the CATHEDRAL of the new diocese, and has only come to an end quite within living memory.

The two very interesting Documentary Letters I have the pleasure to present to-day are taken from one of the original MS. Act Books of the Dean and Chapter of Chester, and refer to the practice of burial within the Cathedral walls in the latter half of the 17th century:—

"Mr. Subdeane BISPHAM &
Mr. Chanter STRINGER.

There is an hon'ble Maid lately deceased at Mr. John Anderson's, being the Hope and Anchor in our Northgate Street, within the City of Chester, viz.: the LADY JANE MONGOMERY, sister to the Right Hon'ble Hugh, Earle of Mount Alexander in the Kingdome of Ireland; who, being a great lover of the Ceremonies of our Church while shee lived, desired to bee buried in our Church when shee dyed. And since shee had the Quire so much in her heart living, I adjudged it fitt to bury her in the heart of our Quire now shee is dead, her Executors paying to the Cathedrall all outomarye dues and justifiable fees which belong unto us. Now, by reason of the late distraction in this Kingdome and my frequent absences from this Church, my memory not well serving mee in every particular thereof, and the R't Reverend JOHN, LORD BISHOP OF CHESTER, having a great kindness for her family, as well as a great love unto Justice, desiring that shee may not bee imposed upon by any kind of Exaction: You two being the most antient stagers now resident in this Church, I doe require you, upon virtue of your oathes formerly taken, y't you declare unto mee in writing what the former fees and customes have been in the like case; that as I may not impose upon such hon'ble persons,

so neither prajudice our Successors in this Church; since our late Leiger bookes and other writings and Records of the Church, which should have informed us of former use and customes, have been miserably plunderd, and by violent hands taken away, in the late warra between King and Parliament; and though I have used all imaginable diligence & charg to retrieve them, yet could not regaine them, but do beeleeve they were burnt in the late great fire of the City of London. I pray you deale faithfully & impartially, for what you doe declare in writing under your hands I intend to enter into the Chapter book in *perpetuam rei memoriam*, y't It may bee a standing rule and direction for our Successors, whom I would not have doe anything unwarrantably. I have sent my Chaplaine, Mr. Francis Wood, to you with this letter, that hee may have full discours with you about the premises, by whom I shall expect a full answer thereunto. So commending My self kindly to you, I rest

Your very loving freind

HENRIC: EP'US SODOR ET MONÆ.

June ye 9th, 1673.

Decanus Cestræ."

The DEAN who penned this characteristic letter was Dr. HENRY BRIDGEMAN, formerly Rector of GREAT BARROW, but who was at the date of the correspondence BISHOP of the Isle of MAN, besides being Dean of Chester. The officials to whom he addressed himself were first Mr. Prebendary and Sub-Dean BISPHAM (one of the Bisphams of Billing, co. Lancaster), who had been Prebendary here for over 40 years; and second, the venerable Precentor (otherwise Chanter) and Organist of the Cathedral, the Rev. PETER STRINGER, who, "man and boy," had been connected with the Cathedral since the year 1627, upwards of 45 years!

The answer the Dean's letter elicited from these two "ancient stagers" and Mr. Duckworth, another Prebendary, ran as follows:—

"R't Reverend MR. DEANE,

Wee received your Lo'ps letter of the ninth of this instant June, 1673, and in obedience thereunto wee return your Lo'p this answer,—1st, That all the burials or Lestalls in the South side of the Cathedrall, commonly called ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH doe belong unto the Deane and Chapter of this Church; who have sometime leased them unto the Vicar of St. Oswald's upon the rent of five pound a year, payable at Easter; as namely to Mr. William Case before the warra and to Mr. William Boardman since the warra, and the present Vicar, Mr. Lawrence Fogg, doth enjoy them upon ye like annual rent. 2nd, That in the body of the Cathedrall old Mr. Alderman John Radcliff, Grandfather, and Alderman John Radcliff, Father, to John Radcliff, Esq., late Recorder of this City, paid unto the Deane & Chapter for their sepulture under the great marble stone in the middle Alley such considerable summs of money as they demanded. And the said late Recorder's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Radcliff, dying in the year after her Mother and Daughter and others of that family, Wee, considering ye great

mortality y't was amongst them, demanded only five pounds of them for breaking up the ground near the place for her to bee buried in, before we would suffer the ground to bee broken: and though hee did grumble at it at the first, yet your Lo'p may remember hee sent his servant, Mr. Jones to your Lo'p, that hee would satisfye the Deane and Chapter in their demands. And now that hee is dead himself, considering how kind a neighbour hee hath beene in affording us his Councell upon all occasions, though in your Lo'ps absence I demanded five pound for his buryall there of his Executors, yet wee leave it to your Lo'ps wisdom to return or abate him what you please.

And for those who, 3ly, bury in the side Alleys of the Quire, they have usually paid five pound: and we know your Lo'p does well remember that you received no less from Mr. Thomas Simons, a Lancashyre man, who dyed at Mr. Thomas Clarke's, the Petty Canon. 4ly, And for those that were buried in the body of the Quire, they have usually paid ten pounds for the ground, or upward, according to the vicinity and eminencye of the place; only the members of the Church, and those that have descended from them, have had the Indulgenyes to bee buried gratis according to their qualities; which if greater, in St. Mary's Chappell, betwixt the Quire and the East end of the said Chappell, where the Dean and Proebendaries are usually buried; as your brother, Mr. Dove Bridgeman, was, and your Excellent Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Bridgeman, and your own two daughters Mrs. Henrietta and Mrs. Katherine Bridgeman, and your daughter Grenehalgh's daughter Mrs. Catherine Grenehalgh, all in the vaulted Sepulchre which your Father, my L'd John Bridgeman, B'p of Chester, did in his life time, by consent of the Deane and Chapter, build for the buryall of the branches of his family; and which your Lo'p and wee all of the Chapter have delivered our Assents and Consents to bee continued unto your family solely and p'petually. Further, Wee certifie that the blacks that cover ye Pulpit and Cushion doe belong to the Deane and Chapter. If the Corps bee sung into the Church and to the Grave, the least that the Quire men have usually had was forty shillings. There is also due for the use of ye bells to the Deane and Chapter for one day, twenty shillings, besides satisfaction to bee given to the Ringers. There is also due to the Virgers for a passing peale, ten groates, if they tole ye great bell. If the fourth bell, eight groates, from both which the Chanter usually had eight pence.

Your Lo'ps humble Servants,

WILL'M BISPHAM, Subd:

CHARLES DUCKWORTH, P'bend:

PETER STRINGER, P'centor."

The foregoing very curious letters teem with subject matter of interest to the local antiquary and historian, and will merit and I trust receive further elucidation in some future No. of THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[749]

CHESHIRE DOCUMENTS.

What a pity it is that "Cheshire, chief of men," don't combine to pick up and preserve, in some one safe place, the numerous old documents relating to Cheshire and its anclent families which are now being cast to the four winds of heaven by the London second-hand book-sellers! I will, with your leave, just recite a few that I find among my cuttings. I do so in the order of their dates:—

1389. Curious deed of release in the hands of John Bouth of Twemlow, whereby it appears that large lands were held in several parishes in Cheshire by the service of a Rubie Rose at the Feast of St. John the Baptist in perpetuity.
1418. Charter from Baldwin Thornhille, and Agnes his wife, to William Vernon, relating to lands in Russelestles (?), co. Chester.
1424. Deed between Robert del Bothe, Parson of Belynton, and Richard Bulkley, Vicar of Wybunbury, relating to land in Buglawton, co. Chester.
1424. Charter from Thomas le Kyner, of the city and county of Chester, and Johanna his wife, to Robert le Venables, Rector of Kenthestone, relating to lands and houses in fleshmonger-lane and Brugg-street, Chester.
1426. The rent roll of John de Kyngesley, in the hundred of Wich Malbank, in the county of Chester.
1442. Charter from Robert de Bothe, Parson of Belynton, relating to lands in the manor of Buglawton, and witnessed by Robert Grosvenor, John Maynwaring, and others.
1442. Charter from Randolphe le Maynwaring to Richard de Bulkeley and others of lands in Buglawton, witnessed by Lawrance Ffyton and John Nedham.
1451. Charter from Robert Roley, relating to lands, &c., in the vill of Kyrmingham, witnessed by John Davenport, Hugh Wynnington, and others.
1457. Grant of "a Salthouse" by Randle Manwaring to John Rowland, in the township of Northwich.
1474. Charter from Johan's ap Dikus de Wico Malb'no and Elena, daughter of Richard Eign, to John Maynwaring and others, of lands in Worleston, Aston, &c., witnessed by Thomas Wilbraham, Multon, and others.

All these documents are valuable, inasmuch as they bring before us the names of individuals who have a sort of local interest to antiquaries and genealogists. They are, so to speak, so many landmarks, that can be usefully employed in our researches into the history of the past, and by inserting this notice of them in THE SHEAF they will be ear-marked accordingly.

GLADWYN.

[750] REMARKABLE LONGEVITY IN THE VALLEY OF THE USK.

It may gratify Dr. Brushfield to have the following list added to those instances already given in THE SHEAF. It is copied from a paper by Mr. Horace Pearce, F.G.S., in *Science Gossip* :—

"A short time ago, when exploring the scenery about Crickhowel, I spent some time in the ancient church and churchyard of Llangattoc, less than a mile from the former village, and was struck by the number of very aged people recorded on the stones; the most remarkable instance being that of three persons of one family, whose united ages amounted to 300 years! I saw most of the names and ages in the following list (which was subsequently furnished to me by Jenkin Jenkins, sexton and clerk of the parish), most of which he told me he had verified by the registers of the church :—Thomas Davies, farm bailiff for one family for seventy-five years, 105 years old; father of the same, 101; mother of ditto, 94. Gwenllan Morgan, 110; Edward Jones, 102; William Williams, 101; Henry Smith, 100; John Pugh, 69; Abel Thomas, 98; John Jones, 97; Charles Powell, 97; Catherine Williams, 96."

G. A. S.

Queries.

[751] THE BARON OF DUTTON.

When the union with Scotland was effected under Queen Anne, it was strictly provided that the Sovereign thenceforth should not be empowered to create any Scottish peerages in addition to those already existing—about 160 in number—and of which no less than half have since become extinct, or have been forfeited for their adherence to the cause of the exiled Stuarts. At the same time, provision was made for the representation of Scotland in the British Parliament. It was arranged that 16 of their number should be chosen as representative peers from session to session. The Scottish element in the Upper House has since that time been considerably increased by inferior English titles conferred upon Scottish peers. These inferior titles, of course, involve the right of a seat and a vote in the Imperial Legislature apart from, and in addition to, the 16 representatives mentioned above. The first title conferred in this way was the barony of DUTTON in CHESHIRE, bestowed by Queen Anne in 1711 upon the then Duke of Hamilton: but a difficulty arose at the time in the interpretation of the Act, which limited the seats of the Scottish peers to 16; and it was not until 1783 that the right of the Crown to make these creations was finally established and recognised by a formal resolution of the House of Lords. What was the Scottish Duke's claim to this purely Cheshire baronial title?

T. T.

[752] CHESHIRE AUTHORS.

Is it true that THOMAS ROGERS, who published in 1577 a small 4to. volume "Of the ends of the second coming of Christe," was a Cheshire man by birth?

Also,

GEFFRAY MYNSHULL, who in 1618 published "Essayes and Characters of a Prison and Prisoners?"

THOMAS CASE, who in 1644 published "God's Rising His Enemies Scattering?"

FRANCIS BROOKE, who in 1660 published "World Surveyed, or the famous Voyage and Travels of Vincent Le Blanc?"

JOHN WHITNEY, who in 1700 published "Genteel Recreation, or the pleasure of Angling?"

I shall feel grateful if some of your correspondents can give me information about them; when and where born, when they died, and if they published any other works?

E. G. S.

Replies.

[753] WILLIAM LAWS.

[Nos. 572, 609, 628.—March 19, April 9, 23.]

I some years ago copied the following Lines from an old MS. Common-Place Book of the middle of last century, formerly the property of a well-known Chester family of merchants:—

"EPITAPH ON

WILLIAM LAWS, Musician, killed at Chester Siege, & buried in Chester Cathedral.

Concord is conquered,—in the Urn there lyes

The master of great Music's mysteries:

And in it is a Riddle, like their Cause,

WILL LAWS was slain by those whose Wills were Laws."

We might almost gather from this that a Monument with the above inscription at one time graced our Cathedral walls; but if so, it had certainly disappeared prior to the year 1819, when Ormerod copied and printed most of the records of that kind then existing, and who would certainly not have omitted so interesting a memorial as that dedicated to poor WILL LAWS.

G. T.

[754] ST. GEORGE'S RACE.

[No. 622, 623.—April 23, *dis.*]

I gather from some evidences to which I have recently had access, that the ST. GEORGE'S PLATE which, as I explained at No. 622, was in the 17th century transferred to the country race-course at FAIRDON, was at a later date translated back again to the old ROODEYE at CHESTER, its original home. On its return to be one of the standing dishes at our annual city festival, it seems to have changed its name from ST. GEORGE'S RACE to the "ANNUAL CITY PLATE

value 30£, with 20£ given by the Corporation,—four mile beats."

In 1807, a stronger racing spirit seems to have seized the Corporation, whose constancy to the Roodeye Sports had been evinced for two centuries at least previously, the Mayor and his brethren having a Stand of their own, erected at the city's expense, from which to witness and control the doings on the course beneath them. There are many references to this Stand and to the Races in the Assembly Books, some of them quaint and of much historic interest.

I think, however, about the last notice officially of St. George's Race by name is the following, which I now place on permanent record:—

"1807. Sept. 18.

"Also at the same Assembly, it is ordered that the CITY PLATE at the next Chester Races shall be made up into the clear Sum of Sixty Guineas, instead of the Cup heretofore given to be run for on ST. GEORGE'S DAY."

In the Race List of the following year, 1808, what was originally ST. GEORGE'S RACE, and later on the "Annual City Plate," now figures as "THE CORPORATION PLATE of 60 guineas," and it was won in that year by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, with his horse *General Benningsen*.

T. HUGHES.

JULY 30, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

July 30.—William de Marshton elected 18th Abbot of Chester	1385
Aug. 1.—Chester New Railway Station first opened for traffic	1848
„ 3.—Lord Capell the second time attacked Nantwich.....	1643
„ 4.—Queen of Holland passed through Chester	1857
5.—John Bird made 1st Bishop of Chester..	1541

J. H.

Original Documents.

[755] CHESTER FOR CHESTER MEN.

From the following Document culled out of the ASSEMBLY ORDER BOOK of the Corporation of Chester, we learn that it had grown to be a corrupt practice in the "old Auncient and free Citie" to prefer strangers to posts of honour and public trust, rather than free-born citizens. The purport of the Order we print

to-day was to set this abuse right, and to take care that so far at least as the Corporation was concerned, Chester men were, *ceteris paribus*, always to be selected, to the exclusion of strangers.

"Where this the Kinges pore Citie of Chester is and long tyme afore the conquest of England hath bene An olde Auncient and free Citie, And by all the same tyme by the p'futable ordyn'no's, laudable vsag's, grate lib'ties, g'ants and p'uileg's (most prudently had, kept and consued by the mayre sherffes and other gou'no's therof for the tyme beinge in A right discriit honest and comendable forme the gode Astate and com'onwelthe of ye same Cytye, and the oitizyns and Inhabytaunts therof), hath from tyme to tyme ben exalted Adn'need and highly p'ferid. Among whiche laudable p'ui'sions, lib'ties, g'ants, and vsag's, haue by all the same tyme byne vsed, that no manor of p'son ne p'sons inh'iting w'tin the saide Citie or the p'inct therof, should occupye ex'cyse or minstre eney man' occupao'on, mistre or craft, or, any thing Do, vse, or occypye w'tin the saide Citie Ones he or they wer fyrest fraunchessed and admyttyd to ye lib't's of the Saide Citie. And for as muche as of late tyme, diu'se offices and comon s'uants not beyng fraunchessed nor admyttyd to the lib't's of the Said citie haue ben elected and Chosyn, Somme of them by fauor of the Mayre for the tyme being, and othe' Su' by the menes And labor of gentyllmen in the countrye, and su' other for mere drede or otherwyse, not regarding the good order tranqueletye and comon welthe of the said citie, ne ye said p'futable vsag's and ordyn'no's; by meanes wherof the gentyllmens s'uants of the country manye tymes haue byne p'feryd to the offices and Roumes ther, and ye cytic'ns and fre men of ye said Citie being in decaye, p't by reasone of casualties vpon the Sea, and other su' by Seuertyeship and other mysfortunes dalye happenyng and fortunynge, haue byne set at nought and lyttill regardyd, and the com'n counsaile, laudable vsag's, and secretts of the said Citie therby haue byne Dislosed, and finally Justice could not trewlye & Indeferently take place Accordynge.

In advoydyng wher of, and for the p'ferment of the com'on welthe of ye said Citie hereafter to be p'seruid, Adn'need and highlye exaultyd, accordynge to the Kings Laues, It'm it is ordenid by Henry Gee, mayre of ye said citie, the shireffs, ald'men and com'en counsell ther of by [and] on ther hole and com'en Assents and consent at a full Assemble had w'thin the pentice of the Saide Citie, the xxjet day of November, In the xxxj yere of the reigne of ou' Souerenge lorde Kynge Henry the eyght,

That from hensforthe no man' p'sone ne p'sons shall haue, ex'cise, or occupie anye man' office or offic's, Roume or Roumes, w'tin the Said Cytye, ne from hensforth shalbe enye Com'n s'uant of the Said Citie, ne s'uant or s'uants to the mayre or sheriffs of the saide citie for the tyme being, or enye of them, Ones he or they be or were laufully admyttyd to the Lib'ties of ye said Citie, And made fraunchessed & free therof afor the tyme of such

office, Rounge, or s'ues to him or them grauntyd. And that all such offices, Rounes and Seruices & euery of them, Which now be otherwyse vsed, ex'cised, or occuppyd, then by fraunchessed and free men of the Saide Citie, as is aforesaid, from henceforth shalbe voyd and no further to be occuppyd by eney of the saide p'son or p'sons so not lawfully fraunchessed and Admyttyd to the lib'ties of the said Citie as is aforesaid; saving allwayes to Them that now be and were in offyce before this p'sent daye, that it be lawfull to them to occuppye still upon ther behauour. And that it Shalbe lawfull to the Mayre of the Same Citie, by thadvyce of his brethern or the most partye of them, to elect name and appoynt other p'son or p'sons fraunchessed and Admitted Lawfully Unto the lib'ties of the Saide Citie, Experte and apt for the same office or offices, Rounge or Rounes, s'uice or s'uices, so being voyd or voydable as is Afore Remembrid, To haue and exercise the same office or offi's, Rounge or Rounes, s'uice or s'uice's, At and duringe the pleasure and mynde of the Mayre and sheriffs of the Saide Citie for The tyme beinge, and of euery of them.

And further yt is orderid and establyshed by the full Assent and consents of the Saide mayre, Sherffs, Ald'men, and Com'on Counsell of the Saide Citie at the saide assembye, that from henceforth yt shalbe Lawfull and at the wyll and pleasure of the Saide mayre and Sherffs of the Saide Citie, and of euery of them for the tyme beinge, to Amove expell and put from his or ther office or offices, Rounge or Rounes, s'uice or s'uices, from tyme to tyme all and Euerye Suche p'sone or p'sons offendynge or not doynge his dutie belongyng and app'teynyng to His or ther office or Offices, Rounge or Rounes, s'uice or Seruices, And to Admyt to the Same offices Rounes or Seruices, and to eu'y of them, Suche other p'sone or p'sons fraunchessed & fre men of the Saide Cytye, as by the said Mayre and sherffs & euery of them for the tyme beinge w't the aduice of the Mayres Brethern or the more p'te of them, shalbe thought most Exp'te and Apt to occuppye the Same offi's, Rounes or s'uices, and euery of them, during and at the pleasure of the Mayre and Sherffes for the tyme beinge and of euery of them; and that from he'forth no officer ne offi'rs, Comon s'uant ne s'uants to the mayre or Sherffs of the Sayde Citie for the tyme beinge shalbe mayde for Anye laboure or fauoure of enye gentyllman of the cuntrye, nor by anye other meanes shalbe made, otherwyse then as it ys aforesaid in this order. And that this ordynance and decree, and eu'y article and clause therein contenid, shall be obs'uid and kept from tyme to tyme henceforth according to the trew Intent and meanyng therof, and of eu'y article and clause of the Same, wyth out eny contradic'ion, Male Jugyne, or collusion."

Notwithstanding this striot Order for the setting aside of aliens, it was continually rendered inoperative. For, whenever the Corporation wanted to appoint a stranger to be Town Clerk, Recorder, or other officer, their first step was to proclaim him a free citizen; and

then in the following paragraph, having bridged the difficulty, at once pitchforked their nominees into the office,—thus holding fast to the letter, but ignoring the spirit, of their protective Order. EDITOR.

Notes.

[756] EARLY DOCUMENTS RELATING TO HAWARDEN.

1366. Letters Patent granting a free pardon to John Whiteley, of Hawarden, both as to person and estate. This was issued, in the second year of his reign, by King Richard II.
1445. Grant of land and tenements in Hawarden by Edmund de Grey, Lord of Rathyn, to Thomas de Salisbury, then son and heir to Henry Salisbury, of Lleweni, in Denbighshire.
1504. Deed of covenant between John Mynshull and John Whiteley relating to lands in the lordship of Hawarden.

These documents bring before us three very ancient names—Whiteley (now called Whitley), Salisbury (now called Salusbury), and Mynshull (now called Minshull.) The John Whiteley mentioned in the deed of 1504 was a lineal descendant of a gentleman of the same name who was pardoned in 1366, and he served under the Earl of Derby, and had charge of his woods, &c. Thomas de Salisbury was, as stated, the eldest son of Henry Salusbury, of Lleweni, and the gentleman designated by Welsh heralds as Thomas Salisbury *sen*—that is, the father or head of his house; and indeed, according to Lewis Dwn, *all* the Welsh Salusburies derived from him, and through his wife, Jane Done, daughter of Sir John Done, of Utkinton, from the Dones of Cheshire. A Sir John Mynshull was living at Mancott in the year 1569; Thomas Whiteley at Aston in 1632; George Salusbury at Ewloe, 1633. So far as my information goes, all these names have ceased to exist in the district of Hawarden: and it must be curious to learn how one by one these old families became merged in others; and if there remaineth to this day a *Hawardener* who can boast of being the possessor of the blood of any one of the historic men I have mentioned.

JOHN AP MYNSHULL.

[757] CHESHIRE DIALECT.

[Continued from No. 694.]

DIGHT. To put out, as to "Dight a candle."

DINGY. Cloudy, dingy. "Dingy looking."

DISH'D. Done up. "I've dish'd the Whigs!"—Lord Derby.

DOM. To do well. "Cattle never doe on weighed hay,"—i.e., hay given by stint or weight. It is said also of a doosome child, "Hoo

dunna crack many deaf nuts;" also
"It paises its pasture."

DOUGH. "As busy as a dog in dough."

DRIFT. A herd or drove of cattle.

DREDGE. To dust, as with a flour box called a dredger.

EACULL. "There's nothing in Nature will eacull a tatur."

EEND. "He's ene o'th best eend o'th worser sort o' folks."

EYE. When a person cannot refuse with a good grace, it's "I'll see about it." "I'll see how you get on"—in fact, it's "all my eye."

EYE SARVANT. Said of a screw cheese press which, if not constantly watched and turned, does not work.

FANTOME. Weakly, shadowy. Horses are said to be fantome in autumn.

FAUT. Fault. "Flesh upon horses, and money with women, hide a many fauts."

FAWSE. Cunning. "He's a fawse jockey." "As fawse as a bag o' monkeys."

FELL. To fall a tree.

FLIT. "Three flite is as good as a fire."

FIDDLEE'S MONKEY. A sixpence, or the smallest silver coin.

FITCHET. A Pole-cat. A dark ferret is called "fitchet coloured."

GILT. GAW. GAUT. (? Synonymous), signifying open or unoccupied.

GIVEN. The disposition of a person or thing, as "Given to drink."

HAD. To hold. To get the best of an argument, as "He had him on th' hip," and query, whether this last does not originate in the use of the "Catch-pole?"

MAY HAPPEN. Perhaps. "May happen he'll not be long."

HARKEN OUT. To look out for a person.

HEAVY ON. Said of the loading of a cart, if too light or too heavy in front, throwing the cart off the balance.

HEIGH! "Heigh thee! Make haste."

HIDE BOUND. Old pasture which a farmer wants to break up "just for three crops;" and which is not laid down again until exhausted.

HOOK OFF. To leave off work.

HOO. She. Hoo'd. She would.

HOWD YE. Called out to the man on the harvest load when the horse is being started.

INKLING. A hint. "He got an inkling of it."

JACK NOUP. A Tom-tit.

JOCKEY. As, "A gallus young jockey." "A tough jockey."

KETTLE. A mess. A hobble. "A pretty kettle of fish."

KIGLEY. Unsteady. A kigley road.

B. LL. V.

Queries.

[758] PRECENTORS OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

Is there any printed or other list available of the Precentors of Chester Cathedral from the date of its foundation in 1541 to the present day. One would imagine that during those 340 years there would have been a few at least, of some musical eminence, holding that important position. But on looking cursorily through the new *Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, now in progress, I have not noticed more than one actually hailing from Chester. Such a list as I now ask for, if it can be supplied, may furnish a few respectable additions to our national roll of musicians.

L. L.

[759] THE LEYCESTER AND DAVENPORT DISPUTE.

Sir Randulphus Leycester, of the City of Chester, Knight, had a dispute with John Davenport, of Henbury, about the middle of the sixteenth century, and it was left to William Brereton, Thomas Venables (of Kynderton), Sir Philip Egerton (of Oulton, but then called Ulton), and Edward Ffytton, Esq., to settle. I have tried in vain to find out the merits of the case; but as it is known that these gentlemen did in 1547 publish their award, it is likely we may find in that document all the facts recited. If any of your readers have seen the award, and have made a note of its contents, I should be glad if they would give some information in relation to it.

G. A. S.

[760] THE HOLY ROOD, HAWARDEN.

I have before me a printed copy of what purports to be the translation of an ancient Saxon manuscript, and shall be glad if the columns of THE SHEAF can produce any further confirmation of the statement therein contained. It is as follows:—

"In the sixth year of the reign of Conan (ap Ellis ap Anarawd), King of North Wales (which was about A.D. 946), there was in the Christian Temple, at a place called Harden in the Kingdom of North Wales, a rood-loft, in which was placed an image of the Virgin Mary, with a very large cross, which was in the hands of the image called Holy Rood. About this time there happened a very hot and dry summer, so dry that there was not grass for the cattle; upon which most of the inhabitants went and prayed to the image or Holy Rood, that it would cause it to rain, but to no purpose. Among the rest the Lady Trawst (whose husband's name was Syltzyllth, a Nobleman, and Governor of Harden Castle) went to pray to the said Holy Rood, and she praying earnestly and long the image or Holy Rood fell down upon her head and killed her. Upon this a great uproar was raised, and it was concluded and resolved upon to try the said image for the murder of the said Lady

Trawst, and a jury was summoned for this purpose, whose names were as follows, viz. :—

Hincot of Hancock, Span of Hancock,
Leech and Leach, and Cumberbeach,
Peet and Pate, with Corbin of the Gate,
Milling and Hughet, with Gill and Pughet.

Who, upon examination of evidence, declare the said Lady Trawst to be wilfully murdered by the said Holy Rood, and she guilty of the murder and also guilty of not answering the many petitioners. And whereas the said Holy Rood being very old and done, she was ordered to be hanged; but Span opposed that, saying as they wanted rain, it would be best to drown her. He was fiercely opposed by Corbin, who answered, as she was Holy Rood they had no right to kill her; but he advised to lay her on the sands on the river below Harden Castle, from whence they might see what became of her; which was accordingly done. Soon after which the tide from the sea came and carried the said image to some low land (being an island) near the walls of the City of Caer Leon, where it was found the next day drowned and dead; upon which the inhabitants of Caer Leon buried it at the place where found, and erected a monument of stone over it, with the inscription :—

The Jews their God did crucify,
The Hardeners theirs did drown,
Cause with their wants she'd not comply,
And lies under this cold stone."

A foot note is added to this copy stating that our Rood-die or Rood-dee is so called from this incident, "being the name given to that river on this occasion, for before it was called the river *Usk*."

Can any of your readers say if this latter part be correctly stated? I should also like to know if and where this curious document is still in existence, and whether there are any local traditions in the neighbourhood of Hawarden which go to confirm its purport. The stone on which the good Cestrians inscribed the Holy Rood's epitaph has, I conclude, long ago disappeared?

H. L. P.

Replies.

[761] CAPTAIN FRANCIS SANDFORD.

[Nos. 719, 748.—July 2, 16.]

In our recent Reply on this subject, we left FRANCIS SANDFORD a prisoner at Nantwich, and fruitlessly at work with friend and foe negotiating for his release. To-day we carry on the story to its conclusion, by the help of original papers still preserved at the family seat at Sandford.

We have already given an account of Viscount Kilmorey's reply to the appeal addressed, through his

Lordship, to the royalist commander Lord Byron at Chester. We follow that up now with another Letter from one on apparently the opposite or perhaps neutral side in the national struggle.

"S'r,

I would haue done yo'u all the s'rvice in my power to procure yo'r enlarg'm't in the way memo'ned in yo'r l're, had I found ye co'rse not to crosse ye caution wherew'th yo'u concludde. But since the Nationall Covenant & ye new oath for desertinge ye K's p'tie are to p'cede the Composi'on (as the bearer can fully informe yo'u, I endeavo'red not to p'sent yo'r name at Goldsmithes Hall; & the rather [for] that yo'r l're must of necessitie haue binne pro[duced,] whereby yo'r avernes to the proceed-inges would haue app[ear'd], & the buisines quashed. If the progresse of yo'r noble freinds who tread this path may cleare form'r doubts in yo'r resoluc'on, it is thought by some yo'u may be receaved here-after, wherin I shall as occasion serves be eu'r, S'r,

Yo'r servant

J. VASSE.

5^o Decemb. 1645."

It is pretty evident from this Letter that CAPTAIN SANDFORD's "caution wherew'th he concludde" his appeal was his antipathy to the National Covenant, and his objection to desert the King's party; and thus he of necessity failed, on that occasion, to obtain his liberty.

Within little more than a month either Goldsmith's Hall had relaxed its conditions, or the gallant Captain had accepted the inevitable: at all events, negotiations had reached the point of obtaining his discharge from custody, as the following acquittance amply proves :—

"Jan. 21st, 1645.

Received the day & yeare above written of Mr. Francis Sanford of the Broadoke in the County of Flint, the Sum'e of forty pounds of Currant English money for his Ransome out of prison, I say li. s. d. rece'd the said Sum'e of ————— 40. 00. 00. by mee

ROBT. LATHROP."

This Fine was taken for his Ransom only; but Goldsmith's Hall had not by any means removed its voracious claw. For we find from the printed "Catalogue of the Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen that have Compounded for their Estates, London, 1655," that "Francis Sandford of Sandford, Salop, Esq." was further mulcted as his Composition in the sum of 459£. We imagine it was in connection with this serious imposition that the following Pass, still extant at Sandford, was issued :—

"These are strictly to Chardge and Comandd yo'u and every of yo'u, That yo'u permitt and suffer the bearer hereof, Francis Sandford, Esq., w'th his man and horses and other necessaryes for travell to passe all yo'r Lib'tyes, guards, and Soowtes, from Sandford to this Garrison of Shrewsburye to speak w'th this Committee vpon speecall occasions concerninge the State. And to retorne backe

Sandford aforesaid w'thout any yo'r Arests, trouble, or interrupt'on whatsoever, as yo'u will answere the Contrary at yo'r sen'all perills. Given vnder o'r hands this first daye of August, 1646.

To all Comanders, officers
and souldiers, And to all
Sargeants at Mace and
other officers and persons
whateoever whom these
maye Concerne.

ROBT. CHARLTON
... EDWARDES
RO. CLIVE
H. MACKWORTH."
EDITOR.

[762] THE HOLES OF CHESHIRE.

[No. 739.—July 16.]

In reply to an "Enquirer" concerning this family, I would state that the HOLES of Devonshire and the HOLES of Nottinghamshire are the present representatives, and that he will find some account of the family in Walford's *County Families*, and in the last edition of Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

S. REYNOLDS HOLE.

Cauntun Manor, Notts.

Canon of Lincoln.

[763] CHESHIRE AUTHORS.

[No. 752.—July 23]

GEFFRAY MYNSHVL, for so he subscribes himself in the Epistle prefixed to his *Essayes*, brought this work out in 1618. A second edition appeared in 1638, and it was reprinted in 1821 at Edinburgh by W. and C. Tait (150 copies only printed). To this edition a short notice of the author is prefixed. He says—

"The personal history of the author is altogether unknown. A Dedication, however to *His most loving and ever respective kind uncle Mr. Mathew Mainwaring of Nantwich in Cheshire*, suggests the county of which we may reasonably presume MYNSHVL to have been a native. There appear to have been originally two distinguished families in Cheshire of the name of Mynshul or Minshull. The Minshulls of Minshull dwelt on the west, and the Minshulls of Erdswick on the east of the river Weaver, a few miles north of Nantwich. The residence of the Minshulls was at the Hall of Minshull, on the Weaver, and from this family there is reason to suppose the author of the *Essayes* descended."

G. W. N.

Alderley Edge.

[764] ST. OSWALD'S PARISH.

[No. 747.—July 23.]

In reply to "J. S. H." about the gallery erected in St. Oswald's Church in 1710, I have no doubt it is all correct, but it did not last much above a century, for Hemingway says:—

"BISHOP LAW directed the parishioners to put St. OSWALD'S into complete repair. Accordingly

the whole was new flagged and paved; a new pulpit and reading desk added; and the old gallery, which was at the west side, taken down and a new one erected at the south end; the walls were cleaned, and the whole, as far as possible, renewed, so that it is now one of the neatest churches in the city. This improvement is commemorated by the following inscriptions on two tables; the first placed in the front of the gallery: 'This church was repaired and beautified, and the gallery erected at the expense of the parish, in the year of our Lord 1826. Joseph Eaton, M.A., F.S.A., vicar; James Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, churchwardens; John Lancaster, Samuel Crabtree, overseers; William Cole, architect.' The other, placed on the west aisle of the church, has this inscription: 'The accommodation in this church was enlarged in the year 1826, by which means 322 additional sittings were obtained; and in consequence of a grant from the society for promoting the enlargement and building of churches and chapels, 302 of that number are hereby declared to be free, and unappropriated for ever, and are in addition to 18 formerly provided. Joseph Eaton, M.A., F.S.A., vicar; James Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, churchwardens.'"

To these improvements, several others were added by the munificence of Dean COPLESTON; and a friend of mine, an old King's Scholar, told me that he saw all these carried into effect. This was done before the end of 1828.

G. H. (2).

AUGUST 6, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

August 6.—Hugh Lupus, first Norman Earl of Chester, died.....	1101
" 8.—First symptom of Civil Strife at Chester	1642
" 9.—Crewe Hall Chapel consecrated by Bishop Bridgeman	1635
" 10.—Peter Leycester, of Tabley, the Cheshire Antiquary, created baronet	1660
" 11.—Thomas Gamull, Recorder of Chester, died	1613
" 12.—Thomas Modesley presented 8th Dean of Chester	1580
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[765] TOWNSHIP OF GLOVERSTONE.

As most of our local readers are aware, GLOVERSTONE is a Township for all legal purposes within the County of Chester and yet geographically included within the

boundaries of the City itself. How this anomaly arose is a question of much interest, and would bear a considerable amount of investigation into local records, if indeed its origin does not belong to a date prior to written evidence.

Certainly it was always a matter of jealousy to the good citizens of ancient days, that there should exist within their sacred precincts a place practically beyond the jurisdiction of the City magistracy; and there frequently crop up, in local story, traces of feuds and fights between the two conflicting interests, similar to the one we print to-day.

"Suites to be brought by Mr. Ireland of Hutt against the cittie, touchinge his pretended Lib'ties at the Glouers stonne, to be defended in the citties cause. [Corporation Assembly Book, 'xxijth Day of December, 1612, Robert Whitbie, Maior.']

"ALSO, AT THE SAME ASSEMBLIE, lyke Informa'ion is given That whereas diuers floriners and Strangers not beinge free of the said Cittie have not onlie sett vpp din's dwellinge houses and shoppes at or neere the Glouers stonne neere the Castle of Chester vpon the Landes of John Ireland of Hutt, esquier, and doe vee diuers manuall trades and occupac'ons, selling of Wares, victuallinge, and tiplinge of Ale and beere, vpon the same Landes. And that he the said John Ireland, pretendinge that the same Lands are out of the lib'ties of the said Cittie, Hath threatened to comense suite againste the Maior and Citizens of this Cittie, if in case any auctoritie or governm't of the same Cittie shalbe there vsed or putt in praotize, for the reformat'ion of any abuse or disorder ther committed. It is now alsoe by lyke generall consent of this whole Assemblie fullie ordered and agreede, that if the said John Ireland his heires and assignes shall at any tyme hereafter comense or bring any suite againste the Maior and Citizens of the said Cittie, or any member thereof, concerning any pretended liberties or priviledges belonginge to his said Land, or exemption thereof from the governm't of this Cittie, that such suite and suites shall be defended vpon the Charges of the said Cittie as the Citties causes."

This JOHN IRELAND was the eldest son of George Ireland of the Hutt and Hale, co. Lancaster, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of Raphe Birkenhead of Crowton, near Chester; and these rights claimed by him at GLOVERSTONE very likely came to him from the Birkenheads, who were for two or three generations Clerks and Prothonotaries of the Counties of Chester and Flint, and had their office and right of residence within the precincts of Chester Castle.

The Corporation of Chester have seldom in their history been very successful in law speculations, and their ancient luck still sticks to them in this regard. Mr. Ireland, it may be safely presumed, came off victorious in his battles with them, for the city has, even to the present day, no jurisdiction whatever in the Township of GLOVERSTONE. EDITOR.

Notes.

[766] HENRY VIII.'S SCHEME FOR THE FOUNDATION OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

When the pliant ministers of King Hal were busy at their not unwelcome task of despoiling the Abbeys and other Religious Houses, pretendedly in the interests of the Church, but far more so in their own and the King's,—the foundation and endowment of several new Cathedrals out of the *debris* gave personal and pleasant employment to the monarch. There still remain in the Public Records drafts in the king's own hand as to the staff and emoluments he proposed to attach to these new Cathedrals. Having a copy of these proposals at hand, I will put on record in THE SHEAF both the original and the revised schemes for the endowment of CHESTER CATHEDRAL; the latter being substantially the one adopted in the Royal Charter changing St. Werburgh's Abbey into the "Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary at Chester."

The first Draft joined the Abbeys of Chester and Wenlock rather as a Collegiate Chapter than as the seats of a Bishoprick, and commences as follows:—

Chestre.

"[Fol. 24.] *Chestre*
cum
Wenlock }

- First, a provost of the Colledge xlii.
Item iiii prebendaries, the mooste parte of them
preachers, every of them by the yere xviij. xiiis.
iiiiid. lxviij. xiiis. iiiid.
Item a reader of dyvynyte xxij.
Item a Scholemaster to teache gramer and logike in
the greke and laten tonge freely by yere ... xxij.
Item an Usher to the same scole xij.
Item xxiiii Scollers, every of them lxviij. viiid. yerely
xx
iiiiij.
Item iiii petycanons to syng in the quyre, every of
them viiiij. yerely xxxiiij.
Item iiii laymen to syng and serve also in the quyre,
every of them viij. xiiis. iiiid. yerely
xxviij. xiiis. iiiid.
Item vi Choristers, every of them lxviij. viiid. yerely
xxij.
Item a master of the Children yerely viiiij.
Item a Gospeller viij.
Item a Pystoler Cs.
Item to be distributed yerely in almes amonge pore
householders xxij.
Item xii pore men decayed by warres or in the
kynges service, every of them to have xxd. the
weke, whiche amountith to every one of them in
the yere iiiiij. vis. viii d., in all liiij.
Item to be employed yerely in mending wayes
xiiij. vis. viiid.
Item a stuarde of the landes iiiiij.

Item an audito'r yerely Cs.
Item come porter to kepe the gates lxvi. viii d.

[Fol. 24. dors.]

Item a Butteler for his wagis and dyete yerely
..... iiiii l. xiiis. iii d.
Item a master Cooke for his wages and dyette yerely
..... iiiii l. xiiis. iii d.
Item come under Cooke for his wages and dyette
yerely lxvi. viii d.
Item one Cato'r to buy their diettes, for his wagis and
dyette, and makynge of his bokes of reconynges
yerely Cs.
Item for yerely reparacons xl l.
Item for the provostes expences in reconyng the
Rentes, and surveyng the landes yerely Cs.
Item ii sextens viii l. xiiis. iii d."

A change then took place in the views of the somewhat changeful monarch: so in his final draft he gives up Wenlock and the "provost of the Colleage"; and elevates CHESTER itself into a Deanery, increasing the relative stipend at the same time from 40*£* to 100*£* of the money of that day.

Chester.

"[Fol. 64.]

Fyrst a Deane, for the corpe of his promotion xxviii l. } Ck
Item iiis by day lxiii l. }
Item vi prebendaries, ech of them in corpe
viii l. xvis viii d. xlvii l. } Cxx
Item to ech of theym viii d by day in
divident xii l. iis iii d lxiii l. }
Item a Roder in divinity [stipend omitted]
Item iiiii studentes in divinitie, wherof ii to be founde
at Oxford and ii at Cambridge, every of them viii l.
xiiis iii d xxviii l. xiiis iii d
Item xxiii'i'i scollers to be taught grammer, every of
theym iii l. vis viii d lxix l.
Item a scholemaister xvii l. xiiis iii d, and an ussher
viii l. xxi l. xiiis iii d
Item vi peticanons to sing in the quyr, every of theym
to have yerely viii l. xiiis iii d lx l.
Item vi singyng men to serve the quyr, every of
theym viii l. xiiis iii d xli l.
Item viii Choristers, every of them iii l. vis viii d
yerely xxviii l. xiiis iii d
Item a maister of the children xl l.
Item a Gospeller viii l., a pisteler viii l., ii Sextens
xii l. xxviii l.

[Fol. 64. dors.]

Item vi old men, beyng old servyng men decayed by
Warres or in the kynges servyoe, every of theym
to have viii l. xiiis iii d by the yere xl l.
Item to be distributed in Almes among poore house-
holders yerely xx l.
Item for yerely Reparations of the church and
manours Ck
Item to be employed in makynge and mendyng of
highwayes yerly xx l.
Item to a Stuard of landes viii l. xiiis. iii d. and to
an Auditour x l. xvi l. xiiis. iii d.
Item ii porters to kepe the gates and shave the
company xii l.

Item to oon butteler for his diete and wages viii l.,
oon cheif Cooke for his wages and diete viii l., and
oon Under Cooke for hys wages and diete iiiii l.
vis. viii d. xvi. vis. viii d.
Item for the deanes expenses in reconyng—and sur-
veyng the landes xl l.
Item to a Cater, for his wages and diete, and for
makynge of the booke of accomptes viii l.
Item in extraordinary chargis xx l.
Sum of all chargis vii'olxxviii l.

[Fol. 65.]

Sum of the deductions not charged with tenthes
in the oomen possession ... Cxx l. xiiis. iii d.

For the tenthe lxix l. iis. iii d. ob. } Cvik. xvis. vd. q'a.
For the first frutes xxxvi l. xis. id. ob. q'a.

And soo to bare all charges first frutes and tenthes
It may please the kinges Maiestie to endue the
church with

xx

viii l. iiiii l. xvis. vd. q'a."

[or, in our modern notation, £882 : 16 : 5½.]

Time has effected changes of various kinds in King Henry's decree. For instance, the "vj prebendaries" have in our own day been reduced to four, and are now called Canons: the "Roder in divinitye, and the "iiij studentes in divinitie" at Oxford and Cambridge, have long been conspicuous by their absence: the "Gospeller and Pisteller" are no more. The "xx l. distributed in Almes among poore householders yerely:" the similar amount for "makynge and mendyng of highways yerly": and, more certainly still, the "ij porters to kepe the gates and shave the company!" with their compeers the "butteler," the "chief cooke" and "under cooke," we should find no trace of now in the annual disbursements of CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

G. T.

[767]

CHESHIRE DOCUMENTS.

In continuation of the lists already sent to THE SHEAF, I beg to hand you a few more, which I find noted for reference.

1593. Charter by Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, Knight, George Cotton, Henry Manwaring, and Sir George Calveley, and others relating to lands of late belonging to the Monastery of St. Werburgh, Chester, in the City of Chester, and in Boughton.
1595. Deed between Sir Hugh Cholmeley, Knt, George Cotton, Thomas Leigh, Henry Manering, Sir George Calveley, John Nuttal, Richard Hurlestone, Richard Cross, and others, relating to land in Abbeygate (Chester), late belonging to the Monastery of St. Werburgh.
1596. Deed between Hugh Cholmeley, Esq., George Cotton, Thomas Leigh, Henry Mainwaring, Sir George Calveley, John Nuttal, Richard Hurlestone, and Peter Bold (of Upton), relating to lands in Ireby, co. Chester.

These good people seem to have been as busy as bees in dealing with church land, and according to all accounts *Peter Bold*, a clever, far seeing gentleman,

managed to feather his nest pretty comfortably. Was Bold Square called after him or Lady Bold, a much later representative of the name? GLADWYN.

[768] MOW COP DIALECT.
(Eleventh Paper.)

DAFFADANDILLIES. Daffodils.
Strow me the ground with *daffadowndillies*,
And cowlips, and kingoups, and lov'd lillies.
Spenser. *The Shepherds Calendar*, April.
Bid *Amaranthus* all his beauty shed,
And *daffodillies* fill their cups with tears,
To strow the laureat hearse where Lycoid lies.
Milton. *Lycidas*.

FEAR. To intimidate: to make afraid.
For though no terrible thing did *fear* them;
yet being scared with beasts that passed by,
and hissing of serpents, They died for fear.
Wisdom, c. xvii. 9, 10.

I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine
Hath *feared* the valiant.

Merchant of Venice. II. 1.
We must not make a scarecrow of the law,
Setting it up to *fear* the birds of prey,
And let it keep one shape, till custom make it
Their perch, and not their terror.

Measure for Measure. II. I.
SWING. A swing: a swinging motion.
O first moving cruel Firmament,
With thy diurnal *swing* that roundest eye,
And hurtlest all from East till Occident.
Chaucer, C. 7, *The Man of Law's Tale*.

UNBETHINK. Bethink.
'Sleepe you, wake you, faire sir Gyles?
Or be yeu not within?
Sleepe you, wake you, faire sir Gyles,
Arise and let me inn.'
'O, I am waking, sweete,' he said,
'Sweete ladye, what is your will?'
'I have *unbethought* me of a wile
How my wed-lord weell spill,

Percy's Reliques. *Old Robin of Portingale*.
ASKY. Old people frequently speak of dry, piercing
winds as *asky* winds, and dry, cold,
windy weather is often spoken of as
asky weather.

GRONCH. To crunch. The word is also often used to
denote green, unripe fruit. 'He made
hissel' bad wi' eatin' sa mitch *gronch*.'

REAP. To *reap* a thing up, is to recur to something,
generally of an irritating or disagree-
able nature. A woman lately said
'my husband never hit me but once,
and I *reaped* it up, so often, he begged
me to let it drop.'

RODNY. A confirmed idler.
Mow Cop.

G. H.

[769]

WELSH LONGEVITY.

As a combination of prolonged old age, and of what may be termed, as to numbers, an enormous family, the following example could hardly be out-matched. The notice appeared in the *London Chronicle* for 1765 (Oct. 29). There is no mention of it in Easton's *Human Longevity*, nor have I met with any other allusion to it. Some of your Welsh contributors might be able to furnish some further particulars, so as to disprove or verify the statement here quoted. An examination of the Church Register of Tregayen would probably result in throwing some additional light upon the case, as well as to fix the date of death, which is wanting in the newspaper account:—

"The following remarkable instance of old age, and a numerous offspring, was inserted in the registry of Tregayen, and transcribed into the New Registry in these words:—

"There lived an old man in the parish of Tregayen, in the county of Anglesey, named William ap Howel ap David ap Yerworth, aged 105: he had been thrice married; his first wife was Elin feroh William, by her he had thirty two children; his second wife was Catherine feroh Richard, by her he had ten children; the third wife was another Elin feroh William, by her he had four children: he had also two concubines; the first was Jonet feroh William, by her he had two children; the second was Leely Lloyd, by her he had five children. His eldest son was Griffith ap William, now living, aged eighty four years; he had children's children to the fourth generation in abundance. His youngest son was also called Griffith ap William, aged two years and a half, now living, and the difference between the two brothers' age is eighty one years and a half; for the eldest was of that age, when the youngest was born. His eldest daughter is called Alice feroh William, aged seventy two; she has been twice married, and hath a numerous offspring in the said parish. At his funeral there was computed to be about three hundred persons descended from him. The said old man was of a middle stature, good complexion, never troubled with the cholic, gout or stone, seldom sick, of moderate fortune, got his bread by tillage, exercised himself in fishing and fowling, and had his senses to the last moment of his life."

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.
Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

Queries.

[770] STAGE COACHES AND MACHINES.

The enclosed copy of an advertisement taken from the *Chester Chronicle*, of March 7th, 1788, may interest

news readers of the present day by showing the accommodation afforded travellers between Shrewsbury and your ancient city 91 years ago:—

"CHESTER, SHREWSBURY, BATH, AND BRISTOL.
New and elegant POST COACH, with four horses,
by way of Wrexham and Ellesmere,

"Began running on Monday, the 3rd of March, 1788, from Mr. LAWRENCE's, the *Lion Inn*, Salop. to Mr. PAUL's, the *Lion Inn*, Chester; and will continue three times a week, viz.: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, setting out precisely at eight in the morning; and meets, at Mr. PAUL's, the Holyhead, Parkgate, Liverpool, and Manchester coaches, also the royal mails to London, the post-coach, and machines.

Fares in the Shrewsbury coach: Insides, 13s. 6d.; outides, 7s. Insides allowed 14lb. of luggage; outides 7lb., all above, one penny a pound.

The public are respectfully informed that no pains or expense will be spared (to render the above Coach in every respect convenient, expeditious, and safe)

By their obedient, humble servants,

T. SIDEBOTHAM, Wrexham.

T. PRICE, Ellesmere.

Fares in the coaches to Holyhead, £1 11s. 6d.; to Parkgate, 3s. 6d.; New Ferry, 5s.; Eastham, 3s. 6d.; Preston Brook, 4s. Ditto in the London mail, £3 3s.; Post Coach, £2 2s.; Machine, £1 6s.

The proprietors of the respective coaches above-mentioned cannot be accountable for any parcel above £5 value, unless entered and paid for as such.

Three or four commodious and well-built packets sail from Parkgate every week."

What was the "Machine" alluded to in the above paragraph?

Wrexham, July 30th, 1879.

LANDWORE.

[771] THOMAS PARNELL, D.D.

This divine, sometime Archdeacon of Clogher, and vicar of Finglass, died at Chester in 1717. He was a poet of no mean order, his principal works being "Hesiod," "The Vigil of Venus," "The Hermit," "An Elegy to an Old Beauty," "An Allegory on Man," and "Moses." If he was buried in Chester, as history states, in which of the churches of the old city may his grave be found?

A. A.

Replies.

[772] HUGH LUPUS, EARL OF CHESTER.

[No. 706.—June 18.]

The 'curious plate' referred to by "GLADWYN" as adorning the first edition of King's *Vale Royall*, folio,

1656, was presented to that work by Sir Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, bart., as an inscription in its left hand corner sets forth, and was copied in line engraving as an illustration to Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, folio, 1819.

The older plate was taken from the original painting in a splendid heraldic MS. on vellum of about the end of the 16th century, which shortly after belonged to the library of William Howard, esq., of Corby Castle, but is now in the archives of the Free Public Library at Chester.

The MS. volume here referred to was perhaps compiled by, if not actually from the artistic pencil of, William Smith of Old Haugh, in the parish of Warmincham, 'Rouge Dragon' Pursuivant in the College of Arms, and one of the authors of that great storehouse of Cheshire history, the *Vale Royall of England*. The building depicted in the plate is the Exchequer Chamber of Chester Castle; and no doubt exhibits a fair notion of what the interior of that court was like in the days of the later Tudors.

The other questions raised by "GLADWYN" I will not touch upon here, but may do so hereafter, if some abler pen should not in the interim favour the readers of THE SHEAF with a reply.

T. HUGHES.

[773]

CHESHIRE AUTHORS.

[No. 752.—July 23.]

THOMAS ROGERS.

Of the life of Thomas Rogers, very scanty notices have been preserved. Wood, in his *Athena Oxon*: edited by Bliss, vol. II., 162, says—

"He was born, as I conceive, in Cheshire, and came full ripe to the University before 1568, about which time being made one of the Students of Ch. Ch. took holy orders very early, and afterwards the degree of master of arts in 1576. What his preferments were successively afterwards, I know not, only, that he was chaplain to Bishop Bancroft, and at length rector of Horning (now Horning's Heath), near to St. Edmonds-Bury, in Suffolk."

Wood gives a long list of his works and translations, and says, "he was buried in the chancel of the church at Horning's Heath, 22 Feby., 1615-1616." The work he is best known by is, "The Catholic Doctrine of the Church of England, an exposition of the Thirty Nine Articles," which was re-published by the Parker Society in 1854.

JOHN WHITNEY.

The Rev. H. Green, who in 1866 brought out a new edition of Geoffrey Whitney's "*Choice of Emblemes*," was of opinion that John Whitney, the author of the very rare book, *Genteel Recreation*, was one of the family of the Whitneys of Herefordshire.

Alderley Edge.

G. W. N.

AUGUST 13, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

August 13.—Salisbury, the conspirator, apprehended by Mr. Joseph Poole	1585
„ 14.—John Lomas and Edith Murray convicted of murder at Chester	1812
„ 15.—The Freedom of Chester City presented to Lords Combermere and Hill	1814
„ 16.—Thomas Smith, of Chester and Hatherton, created a baronet.....	1660
„ 17.—Robert Dorset presented 7th Dean of Chester.....	1597
„ 18.—Colonel Marrow slain at Croughton Hall	1644
„ 19.—Henry of Lancaster marched from Chester to Flint to meet Richard II.	1399

J. H.

Original Documents.

[774] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS.
No. X.

POPISH RECUSANTS DISARMED.

The winter of 1666 was anything but a bed of roses to the Roman Catholic interest in England. Plots were rife amongst them, or were suspected to be so, for the denial of the Royal Supremacy, if not indeed for the overturning of the Monarchy; and the Privy Council, headed by the King, were on the *qui vive* to counteract them.

CHESHIRE, in a slight degree, and Lancashire more especially, were the chief centres of religious disaffection; and the Oulton Papers furnish us with two or three documents, throwing light on the dangers anticipated by our rulers at that threatening juncture. The King's Secretary, Sir William Morice, thus addresses Lord Derby, under the sign manual:—

“CHARLES R.

“Right Trusty, and welbeloved Cousin, wee greet you well. Whereas our two houses of Parliament now assembled at Westminster having receaved during this Session divers informations of the insolent carriage of the POPISH RECUSANTS of late in severall parts of this our Kingdome; and apprehending least those exorbitances, if not timely prevented, should at length break out into a publick disturbance of our gouernment, haue by theire late addresses humbly moued us, that for preuention thereof all popish recusants, or such as, being suspected to be soe, should refuse to take the oaths

of Supremacy and Allegiance, might be forthwith so disarmed as to remove all apprehensions from our good Subjects of theire possibility to disturbe the publick peace:

Wee, hauing taken the same into our princely Consideration, and accepting very graciously the seale and care of our said houses of Parliament in what concernes the good of our people, and the safety and quiet of our Government, haue thought fitt, with the aduice of our priuy Council, hereby to signifie our will and pleasure to you that, forthwith vpon receipt hereof, you give effectual orders that all POPISH RECUSANTS within your Respective Lieutenancies, or such as being suspected to be soe, shall refuse to take the oaths of Supremacy and allegiance, being tendered to them, be forthwith soe disarmed as to remove all apprehensions of theire possibility to disturbe the publicke peace; w^{ch} wee recommend to your especiall care and vigilance, to preserue in all occasions against the Malitious Contrivances and designes of those whose interest in it may be to disquiet the same; whereof wee shall expect from time to time an account from you, and particularly how armed you haue found the said recusants. And for soe doin', this shal be your Warrant. Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 24th day of Nouember, 1666, in the eighteenth yeare of our Raigne.

By his Ma'ties command,

WILL: MORICE.

Our further will and pleasure is, that you receaue into your owne hands the Armes you shall by vertu of this our letter be possessed of, or appoint the same to be kept by some of your Deputy Lieutenants, giving an account thereof to us, whereupon you shall receaue our further pleasure.

WILL: MORICE.”

The letter is thus endorsed—“To our right trusty and right well beloved Cousin, Charles, Earl of Derby, Lord Lieutenant of our Countie of CHESTER & LANCASTER.”

Two or three days later, some fresh scare seems to have seized the Privy Council, and more peremptory orders came down from Lord Arlington, in the shape of the following letter to Lord Derby:—

“CHARLES R.

“Right trusty and Right welbeloved Cousin, wee greete you well. Whereas wee are given to vnderstand that the disaffected p^{er}sons in those parts doe heighten themselves with expectations of new troubles here, and more espetially from the appearance of something of that kind now in the West of our Kingdome of Scotland: And obserueing likewise that those Mutinous spirits in Scotland doe principally found themselves vpon a belieif they shall be Seconded by some fresh disturbances here in England, Which though wee doubt not but by the blessing of God, from the tyme the Orders wee have already given in both our Kingdomes, they will find themselves far disappointed in. Yett in the iust care wee ought to haue for the preserueinge that peace and quiett, God hath soe Miraculously restored

to these Kingdomes, from being Imbroyled by the pernicious plots and designes of its and our Irreconcilable Enemies

Wee have thought fitt hereby to signifie our will and pleasure to you that upon receipt hereof you give Orders for the securing and takeing into Custody all such disaffected p'sons within your Lieutenants'hip as you shall think more eminently dangerous in this Coniuncture. And that such others as, though lesse active or forward, you shall yet have cause to suspect or distrust, as ill affected to Us or our Gover'm't, you cause such to give in good and sufficient Security for there good and peaceable demeanor in such manner as you shall think fitt.

And that in the whole you keepe a strict and Watchfull eye upon the actions and Carriages of all within your Lieutenants'hip, whose affections are any way doubtful in this Coniuncture. And from tyme to tyme returne vs a perticuler accompt of whatsoever happens there relateinge to our service, and the peace of our Gover'm't, Which Wee againe recommend to your best care and vigilance. And soe wee bid you hartly farewell. Given at our Court in Whitehall the 27th day of Novemb'r, In the xvijth yeare of our Raigne, 1666.

By his Ma'ties Command,

ARLINGTON."

Lord Derby, on the receipt of this somewhat hasty missive from the higher powers, took action as follows:—

"Lathom, 30th Novemb'r, 1666.

"My Lord and Gent'

I have iust now received a Letter from the King (whereof the Inclosed is a Coppie) which I desire you to put in Execution according to his Ma'ties Commands. I hope you will herevpon presently appoint a Generall meeting of you all to Consider what is fitt to be done in this Juncture of tyme:

I shall onely Adde that I am,

My Lord and Gent,'

Yor Lo'p's Affec'tt freind and Servant,

DABBY."

This letter of the Lord Lieutenant's is endorsed as follows:—

"For the Right Honnor'ble the Lord Cholmondeley, and the rest of my Deputy Lieutenants of the County Palatine of Chester.

Darby. For his Ma'ties especiall service.

To bee Communicated from one to another w't speed."

Sir Philip Egerton, the royalist officer from whose copy of the despatch our transcript is taken, adds these notes at the foot in his own autograph:

"I Received these Letters from my L'd Cholmondeley vpon Munday the 3: of December, about Seven a Clocke in the Morneing, And sent the Coppies therof to Tho: Cholmondeley of Valeroyall about Nine a clocke followinge."

"My Lord Cholmondeley hath appointed Tuesday the 11th of this instant December to bee the Gen'all meeting at Northwich about ten a Clocke in the Aforenoone."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[775] MATTHEW HENRY AN ANTIQUARY.

Had this good old nonconformist given full swing to his natural bent, it is pretty evident, from certain peeps we get here and there in his voluminous correspondence, that he would have developed strong genealogical and antiquarian tastes. His special leaning in that way was for biography; but I present here a Letter written by him to Ralph Thoresby, the historian, of Leeds, which shows that he took an intelligent interest in archæology likewise.

The Letter occurs in Thoresby's *Letters of Eminent Men*, 1832, vol. i, pp. 429—33, and, omitting only a few sentences of no moment to my present purpose, it runs as follows:—

"FROM REV. MATTHEW HENRY.

Chester, Feb. 1, 1702-3.

Honoured Sir,

I received your's of December 19th with a great deal of satisfaction, because it assured me of your continued friendship, and was a revival of our correspondence; the interruption of which, I am willing to hope, was not so much my fault as my unhappiness, being very confident that I had not received so many letters from you as your's speaks of since I wrote to you: if I had, I could not forgive myself, though I am so well assured of your candour, that I find by your last kind letter you would forgive me. However, to extenuate my fault, I have sent you here enclosed a letter I wrote to you on the day of the date thereof, immediately after Mr. Fenton had made me a kind visit, and promised me to carry one to you; but sending it to his inn, and he not being then within, it was left with the people of the house, who some days after sent it me back, begging pardon that they had forgot to deliver it to Mr. Fenton; so it has lain wind-bound ever since. I have now opened it, and find nothing in it out of date, and therefore trouble you with it.

Believe me, dear Sir, I had not so long delayed to answer your last, but that I was willing to give what satisfaction I could to your enquiry about the Roman tiles found in our city. I knew none able to inform me so well as Mr. Prescott, Registrar of our Bishop's court, to whom I found not an opportunity to be introduced till last Friday; though, had I known, as I do now, of his acquaintance with you, I should not have made such a difficulty of it. He not only (with many other rarities which he obliged me very kindly with the sight of) showed me some tiles, inscribed 'Leg. xx. v.v.' very legible; but showed me a

purse with a label directed to you, wherein he had some months ago deposited some fragments of those tiles with the inscription, together with some pieces of that mummy (so he called it) which was found here a while ago in a stone coffin, which, it seems, you had inquired after. That purse lies ready for an opportunity of conveyance to you; which Mr. Prescott, with a great deal of respect, and honourable mention of you, desired me to acquaint you with.

I cannot bethink myself of any autographs or other rarities to present you with; if I had any thing of that kind worth your acceptance, it would be a great satisfaction to me to have it lodged in your repository, where I should think it safer, and more likely to be serviceable than in my own hands.

Sir, what if you should make a visit to this ancient city? I assure you, you should be as welcome at my house as any friend I know, and perhaps we could show you something here that might gratify your curiosity. If you cannot oblige me with this, I must contrive, if the Lord will, to see you at Leeds; which I should soon do, if my work at home did not detain me.

Mr. Tallents and Mr. Owen are both well, and both in a house at Salop. You would wonder (among other instances of vigour in old age) how very fair and fine Mr. Tallents writes now, in the eighty-fourth year of his age: he gave me last year a manuscript of Mr. Arthur Hildersham's, and has by him many more. If you were not provided with some of that great hand, I could procure one for you. Your candid judgment of that poor Discourse of Meekness emboldens me to acquaint you, that there is a little thing of mine just come out of the press entitled a Scripture Catechism, in the method of the Assembly's: it is about eight or ten sheets, bound printed for Parkhurst; whether in 8vo. or 12mo. I know not; for I have not yet seen it, nor any part of it, in print. A second edition of my Family Hymns, with large additions, came out about June last, printed for Mr. Parkhurst. I beg your pardon for troubling you with this long scrawl, and commending you to the protection of Israel's keeper,

I rest, Sir,

Your most affectionate obliged servant,

MAT. HENRY.

Mr. Prescott, besides his ancient rarities, showed me a new one, which was a horse, of four years old sent him the day before, out of the Isle of Man, for his little son, which was certainly a *minimum quod sit*: it was of just proportions, and yet wanted three inches of a yard high."

This is a particularly chatty interesting Letter, and has many points worthy of being further elucidated in THE SHEAF.

G. T.

[776] "BLACK WORK" IN CHESTER.

In searching for old Coaching records connected with the Borders, I find the names of a couple of lady coach-proprietors in Chester, early in this century.

"MARY GEORGE & Co.," in 1817, announce several Light and Post Coaches to all parts; and in 1822 we have "MARY BOOTH & Co." This lady dated her advertisements from the GOLDEN LION Inn, Foregate Street; and she seems to have had a feminine rival—"MERCY TOMLINSON" (recently removed from the WHITE LION to the FEATHERS Inn), of whom she speaks resentfully in the papers. However, it is not of these ladies and their coaches that I make my note, but of a Postscript to the advertisement of Mrs. Booth, as follows:—

"BLACK WORK done in the best possible manner, on the very lowest terms."

This, I suppose, was equivalent to the "Funerals Furnished" we have in modern advertisements, and being an exploded trades term, it is perhaps worth recording in THE SHEAF.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. E.

[777] CHESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN 1786.

The following is copied from an old book in our possession:—

"THE MESSIAH.

As it is to be performed in the Broad-Isle of the Cathedral of the City of Chester. Printed by T. Monk. Sold by Messrs. Poole and Broster.

1786.

FIRST DAY.

PRINCIPAL PERFORMERS

Mrs. Billington.	Signor Rubinelli.
Mrs. Shepley.	Mr. Harrison.
Miss Mason.	Mr. Sale.

CONCERT in the COUNTY HALL.

"L'Allegro ed Il Penseroso." Set to Music by Mr. Handel.

Printed by Read and Husley, for the Committee.

SECOND DAY.—JOSHUA—An Oratorio.

LAST DAY.—Overture in ESTHER.—Dettingen Te Deum.

Selection of Sacred Music, ending with Coronation Anthem: Zadock the Priest."

Newton.

H.

Queries.

[778]

CHESHIRE ALE.

Was Cheshire ever celebrated, like Denbighshire, but especially Wrexham and Llangollen, for its ALE? If so, is it known in any instance in what the particular excellence consisted? Which, too, were the towns so entitling themselves to fame, and do any of them still keep up their character in this regard?

A WOODMAN.

[779] THE "LITTLE WOMAN."

Can any of your correspondents explain the following quaint and remarkable entry in the Chester Corporation accounts:—

"1712. Oct. 11. To payd for seeing the
Little Woman, by Mr.
Mayor's orders 0 2 6"

Could this have been some kind of exhibition (*e.g.* a Dwarf) which the Mayor was desirous to ascertain if a proper one to be sanctioned by the City authorities?

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

Replies.

[780] THE TWO NORTHGATE BRIDGES,
CHESTER.

[Nos. 861, 465, 494, 528.—Nov. 18, Jan. 8, 29, Feb. 18.]

The Canal under the Northgate was completed in 1775; and I gather from an entry recently met with in the Corporation Assembly Book for 1793, that there had been a Bridge of some sort erected between the Northgate Gaol and St. John's Hospital Chapel prior to the one referred to as being constructed by Mr. Turner in 1793. The entry runs as follows:—

"9 Dec. 1790. It is ordered that the safety of the Bridge leading from the Northgate Gaol to the Chapel, over the Canal, be considered by the Treasurers of this City, and the state thereof reported to the next or some subsequent Assembly."

Between that date and 1793, the Bridge was allowed to stand, having probably been pronounced by the then Treasurers to be what an out and out Chester man would term "go-on-able." But early in the latter year, Mr. Joseph Turner, he being then a Common Councillor, reported adversely as to the safety of the structure, and the Assembly had now been called upon to pay the bill for his advice:—

"29 March, 1793. Ordered that the Bill now presented by Mr. Joseph Turner, one of the Members of this House, amounting to the sum of Three Pounds Three Shillings, for a Business done by him as an Architect for this Incorporation, be paid by the Treasurers of this City."

In July, 1793, the new arch (that still existing to the westward of the Northgate Bridge) was contracted for by Mr. Turner (as described by me at No. 465), and Twenty Pounds afterwards paid to him on its completion.

T. HUGHES.

[781] THE BUTTERSHOPS AND MILK STOUPS,
CHESTER.

[Nos. 522, 557, 620.—Feb. 18, March 12, April 16.]

Recent investigations for another purpose have brought to light the following further references to

this old Corporation property in Eastgate Street. In the Calendar or Rental of the City Lands, &c., drawn up for the Corporation some half century ago by the late Mr. John Faulkner, solicitor, I find recorded an Abstract of the original Grant of the BUTTERSHOPS to the city, bearing date

"30 August, 34th Elizabeth, 1592. William Leeche of Chester, vintner, Robert Watson, clerk, Thomas Booth, gent., and Richard Leeche, ironmonger, to the Mayor and Citizens and their Successors, being a Conveyance of a Messuage and three Shops, and all Chambers and Forefronts right over the same Shops in the Eastgate Street, on the north side thereof, called by the name of the BUTTERSHOPS, there extending from the Highway in Eastgate Street upon the South side, and the upper parts of the same premises, adjoining unto a certain Lane called the DARK ROWS upon the North side, and the lower parts thereof adjoining to the Lands of St. John's Hospital upon the said North side, and in length between the Lands then late of William Mordaunt, Esq., of Oakley, co. Bedford, and Agnes his wife upon the East side, and the Lands of Humphrey Haughton upon the West side,—subject to a chief rent to the heirs of George Ravenscroft, Esq., and to a Gable Rent and services to the City."

Upon the site of these premises, as has been shown at No. 557, the Corporation built, "in suche bewtifull sorte as they thought likest," what were thenceforth known as the NEW BUILDINGS; and under that name they occur again in the Rental Schedule, as follows:—

"13th June, 1635. Lease from the City to Thomas Cross, ironmonger, of all that Messuage or Tenement, commonly called the NEW BUILDINGS, near unto the MILK STOUPS in Eastgate Street, on the North side of the same street, To have and to hold, &c., for three lives at a Rent of 10*s*."

Mention is made in the first of the above extracts of certain Lands belonging to St. John's Hospital, as adjoining the BUTTERSHOPS. I wonder if it be possible now to identify those lands, and whether they still belong to the Charity Trustees of Chester?

T. HUGHES.

[782] CHESHIRE AUTHORS.—THOMAS CASE.

[Nos. 752, 763, 773.—July 23, 30, Aug. 6.]

Wood in his *Athena Oxon.*, ed. Bliss, vol. iv., p. 45, says "THOMAS CASE, son of George Case, vicar of Boxley in Kent, was born in that county, became student of Ch. Ch. in 1616, aged 17 years, or thereabout." Wood gives a very long list of his sermons and other writings, and states that he died in 1682.

Alderley Edge.

G. W. N.

[783] WELSH LONGEVITY.

[No. 769.—August 6.]

The history of the Patriarch of TREGAIAN, William ap Howell, is well known. It is to be found in *Pennant*

[edition of 1810, vol. 3, p. 54]; who quotes no authority for his statement, but gives almost the same particulars as are mentioned in the manuscript of the register which Dr. BRUSHFIELD has printed from *The London Chronicle*. Succeeding writers have, as usual, copied from Mr. Pennant, and some mention of this supposed instance of longevity is made in GOUGH's *Camden*, the *Cambrian Mirror*, and MURRAY's *Handbook of North Wales*.

W. T. P.

AUGUST 20, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Aug. 20.—Ralph Eddowes, of Chester and Shrewsbury, embarked with £15,000 for America	1794
„ 21.—John Lomas executed at Chester for murder	1812
„ 22.—Prince of Orange visited Chester.....	1810
„ 23.—James I. came to Chester in state	1617
„ 24.—Edward, son of Richard III., created 11th Earl of Chester.....	1483
„ 25.—First Court held by the Mayor in the old Exchange.....	1802
„ 26.—Prince Arthur, then at Chester, made Mr. Goodman, the Mayor, an Esquire	1488

J. H.

Original Documents.

[784] JANE DONE OF UTKINTON.

We vary our documentary series to-day by printing the very curious and important Will of Miss JANE DONE, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Done, of Utkinton, by Dorothy Wilbraham, his wife, of Woodhey, co. Chester.

The Will will be found pretty much its own commentator, though it gave rise to a serious litigation in 1715. It runs almost verbatim as follows:—

“Will of JANE DONE, late of UTKINTON, Chester, deceased; proved at Chester 18th March, 1662, by Peter Jones, one of the Executors.

“IN THE NAME of God, Amen. I, Jane Done, one of the daughters of Sir John Done, late of Utkinton, in the County of Chester, K't., deceased, and one of the Co-heirs of John Done, late of the same Utkinton, Esq., also deceased, considering the certainty of death, &c., &c., Doe this twentieth day of February, in the fifteenth year of the raigne of o'r Sou'aigne Lord Charles the Second, Kinge, &c.,

make this my last Will and Testament in mann'r and forme followinge. **FIRST**, I Com'end my spirit to god, And my body to bee buried after my death accordinge to the discre'on of my freinds But that noe blacks, gloues, nor Ribbons, be given, That there be noe fun'all Sermon, noe ringinge of Bells, Noe dole given to the poore, That sacke, wine, and such bread bee p'vided as may refresh the better sort, and bread, Cheese and Beere for the meaner sorte, of p'sons that come to my buriall. **ALSO** I give and devise All my Manno'rs, Lordships, Messuages, Lands, Tenem'ts, and hereditam'ts, with all and en'tie the p'mises and app'tances therevnto belonginge within the kingdome of England (except what is hereafter in this my p'sent Will and Testam't by mee otherwayes disposed of) to bee and remaine to such p'son and p'sons, &c., as is expressed in one Indenture in p'ohm't bearing date the twelfth day of this instant february, betweene me the said Jane Done, of the one part, And Sir Henry Delves of Dodington, Barr't., and S'r Thomas Mainewaring, of Baddeley, Barr't, of the other part. In which said Deed there is power reserved vnto mee, the said Jane Done, by my last Will and Testam't, &c., to charge all or any of my aforesaid Mann'ors, &c., with any sume and sumes of money not exceedinge the sume of three thousand pounds. In pursuance whereof I doe hereby charge the same, &c., as alsoe all my p'sonall Estate, by this my Will as followeth. **FIRST** I giue and bequeath two hundred pounds to bee bestowed by my Executors vpon lands, and the rents, &c., thereof yearly for ever, to bee employed by my said Executors, and, after their deceases, by the heires of my sister Mary Crewe, for the putting forth apprentice the eldest sonnes and (of such as have no sonnes) the eldest daughter of the poorer sort of Inhabitants in Utkinton aforesaid, and in Tarporley, in the County of Chester aforesaid, whether Cottingers or such whose Tenem'ts are so small that they cannot comfortably subsist therevpon without a trade. **ALSO** I giue and bequeath vnto my sister Arderne Twenty pounds to bestowe in plate. Alsoe vnto my brother Crewe twenty pounds. Alsoe to my Nephew S'r John Arderne, K't, two hundred pounds. Alsoe to my neece Elizabeth Crewe fiftene hundred pounds, to be put into the hands of the abovesaid S'r Henry Delves, Barr't, to bee by him improved for her best advantage towards her p'form't in Marriage, &c. Alsoe vnto my four nephews Henry, Raph, James, and Phillip, the four younger sonnes of my said sister Arderne, each of them one hundr'd pounds, &c. Alsoe I giue and bequeath vnto my sister Done one Diamond Ringe which I have by mee, Alsoe vnto my nephew John Crewe twenty pounds a yeare, and soe to continue during the life of his mother my sister Crewe. Alsoe vnto my said neece Elizabeth Crewe all my Linens, best and better sort of wearinge apparell, all my braceletes, Jewells, rings, & such like things not otherwise by me disposed of. Alsoe my will is that my said neece Elizabeth Crewe soe longe as shee keepees her self sole and vnmarried shall haue and

enjoy to her owne prop' vse my Chamb'r wherein I now lye within my Mannor house at Vtkinton afore-said, my in'er Chamber and Closett, the garden Chamber, and ye Closet Peter Jones now hath, with the Gallery or passage betwixt the said Chambers, and the Chamb'r at the low'r end of the staires next the gate, called now the maid's Chamb'r, and the little stable called the end stable, with sufficient and good keepinge of two nags or mares, with grasse in Summ'r, and hay and provend'r and straw for litter in winter, to run in Summ'r in my demesne Lands at Vtkinton, and bee kept in winter as afore-said, with as good and full allowance as my brother Crewe or my nephew Crewe doe or shall keepe their owne. Alsoe I giue and bequeath vnto my sist'r Crewe all the rest and residue of the said three thousand pounds & all other my goods, chattells, money, plate, debts, &c., whatsoever not otherwayes disposed of by mee the said Jane Done. And lastly, I doe by theis pr'sents, &c., constitute and appoint my beloved sister Mary Crewe, and my beloved freind Peter Jones, my true and lawfull Executors, &c., of this my last Will and Testament, &c. In witnes' whereof I haue herevnto put my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written, 1662.

JANE DONE.

Signed, sealed, and published in pr'sence of John Hunt, Thomas fluit, John Hooknell, Will'm Cockayne."

Under this Will, through that of JAMES ARDERNE, nephew of the testatrix and Dean of Chester, one-sixth of the Done estates in Tarporley, &c., became vested in the DEAN AND CHAPTER, who are still the owners, and who present in their turn to the Rectory of Tarporley.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[785] SCROPE AND GROSVENOR ROLL.

Many readers of THE SHEAF are, I have no doubt, aware that this interesting and historic record comprises the proceedings in a cause between Sir Richard Le Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor respecting a coat of arms, which each family claimed a right to bear. It was tried in the Court of Chivalry, and the trial was protracted from the 9th to the 13th of Rich. II., A.D. 1385—1390. This valuable roll was printed in London in 1832, and edited by Sir Harris Nicolas, in two vols., imp., 8vo. Of this edition Lowndes says it was—

"Privately printed at the expense of an association of noblemen and gentlemen. This work contains the evidence of upwards of three hundred earls, barons, knights, and esquires, of each of which persons biographical notices are given. They describe the battles, sieges, and expeditions in which they had served; and their depositions abound in interesting information, illustrative of the history,

manners, and customs of this country in the fourteenth century. In the depositions of the poet Chaucer an account is given of him being taken prisoner. The edition consists of 150 copies only."

It is therefore a work of rarity, and it is not very likely that another edition of it will ever appear. Of the two vols. I believe one vol. comprises all that now remains of the record itself, and the other contains the biographies and notes alluded to by Lowndes. Of the former vol. there were certainly more than 150 copies printed. I have myself met with five extra copies of it at different times, and I have been told there are ten in all, or, in other words, that 160 copies of this vol. were printed, of which 150 only were united with Sir Harris Nicolas' companion vol. I am not fortunate enough to possess Sir Harris Nicolas' rare vols., but I have what I believe to be one of the ten extra copies of the vol. containing the record alone. I have also a thin 4to vol. bound in cloth, and lettered on the back "Scrope Roll," which, as far as I know, is unique. On the inside of the cover is a book-plate inscribed simply "C. G. Young, College of Arms," which, I presume, is the book-plate of Sir Chas. G. Young, Garter King of Arms. On the first fly-leaf is a pencilled memorandum, "The cancelled sheets."

This vol. is manifestly imperfect;—for the first 48 pages it runs in consecutive pages arranged in the same order as my other vol., which I will hereafter call the *folio*, as it is more like a small folio than an imp. 8vo. Then there is a break, and page 48 is followed by page 245, and the paging goes on consecutively to page 252 inclusive. This page is followed by page 261, after which the paging is consecutive to the end of the vol. which closes with page 324.

The folio vol. comprises a sort of title; 357 pages of text, 4 pages (358-62) of appendix, and 6 pages (363-68) of index of names. On collating the two vols, I have found some curious points of difference, which account for the cancelling of the sheets contained in the 4to, and also some interesting notes not found in the folio.

The 4to vol. has no title, but commences at page 1 with a heading:—

"De controversiâ inter Ricardum Lescrope et Robertum Grosvenor, Milites, in curia militari, Anno Regni Regis Ricardi secundi Duodecimo, e Recordis in Turre Londinensi asservates,"

all in Roman capitals. The substance of this is relegated in the folio vol. to a sort of title page printed in different type; the years being given in Roman numerals instead of words, the words "in curia militari" being placed after "controversiâ."

Following this heading are the words "Rotulus Primus," which are wholly omitted in the folio vol.; while, in the 4to, the device and Royal Arms which head the first page in the folio, and the ornamental capital "I" of the first word "In," with which the record commences in both vols., are wanting. The

first page in the folio contains one line more than the 4to. At page 2 of the folio, 16th line from the bottom, the words "oitavit qui" are inserted where dots occur in the 4to. And again, the folio has "predict sibi" in the 14th line, and in the 18th line "decerni & lib'ari pccit pluries & instanter," where in both lines there are blanks in the 4to; also the 9th and 10th lines in the folio are complete lines, whereas in the 4to, dots occur in place of the word "sup'anoi'ato" at the end of the 9th line; and at the beginning of the 8th line two dots occur before the word "ooram." The folio contains one line more on this page than the 4to. Page 3 in the folio has at the bottom the printed signature Billingsfeld, which is wanting in the 4to.

The pages now proceed in each vol., with the same number of lines in each page, to page 31; where a hiatus occurs in the margin before "D'ni," which in the folio is filled up with the "P'ou'arium."

In page 32, near the bottom in the margin, the words "Tr'namissio P'cessus" are wanting in the folio, but occur in the 4to.

At page 36, in the 16th line from the bottom, a blank which occurs after the word "lieuten'nt" in the 4to is filled up with "p'r le mereschall."

At page 41, in the 2nd and 3rd lines from the top, a blank occurs in the 4to, which is supplied in the folio with the word "Ferrers;" and again in the 5th line from the top, in the folio, the word "Reynold" occurs after "mons," but is wanting in the 4to.

At page 43, the folio in the 10th line from the top reads, after "assigne," "en oe cas," while in the 4to a hiatus occurs between "assigne" and "Et" which commences the next sentence. A similar variance again is found at page 45, 16th line from the top—after "s'teine" the folio has "& suffioiant," which words are wanting in the 4to.

Page 48 ends in the 4to, as in the folio, with the words "Se volons &," and then follows, in the 4to, the Grosvenor part of the roll commencing, as in the folio, with page 245, and the words "Lexaminacioun," &c., in old English text in the heading, and also in the text, with the same ornamental "I" which the folio has.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

W. W. FR.

[786] LITTLE MORETON HALL.

All Cheshire knows that, of the many grand old halls which have for centuries made the county palatine famous in architectural and antiquarian eyes, none could until lately compare with the picturesque fabric in wood and plaster known as LITTLE MORETON HALL, near Congleton. A moated mansion of the middle of the 16th century, when Elizabeth was just commencing her long and eventful reign, it must have been a beautiful spot in the zenith of its glory. For close upon a century it has been in the tenure of farmers; and when Ormerod visited it in 1819, preparatory to the excellent notice he printed of it in his *History of Cheshire*, vol. iii. p. 28, he says:—

"The house is occupied by farmers, but deserved attention is paid to the neat appearance and the preservation of the venerable pile."

Since these days, Little Moreton Hall has been the hunting ground of artists of every grade and power, and the London exhibitions have seldom been without a picture of some sort of Little Moreton Hall.

But adverse fate has latterly spread its mantle over the place. The owners appear just now to care little for their ancient mansion of timber, which has been surrendered to undeserved decay. The Rev. J. Pickford, writing to *Notes and Queries* for August 9, thus graphically describes the present sad state of things:—

"I have recently paid a visit to the old Hall of Little Moreton—the ancient home—and found it most rapidly going to decay—in fact, it may now be doubted whether any amount of money would restore it. The moat was choked up with mud, the floors of the rooms giving way, the chapel filled with potatoes, and, in truth, such a picture of desolation it has rarely been my lot to witness. But around all this decay it was most remarkable to see the excellent condition of the glass and the leadwork of the windows, arranged in beautiful patterns of diaper work: the date must have been the latter part of the sixteenth century. It was the time when Lord Bacon complained that the houses were "so full of glass that we cannot tell where to come to be out of the sun or the cold." On a pane is yet to remain the following distich, cut with a diamond:—

'Man can noe more knowe woman's mynde by
teares
Than by her shadow judge what clothes shee
weares.'

Underneath are the names of Jonathan Woodnotte and Mary Woodnotte, and the date 1621. The pedigree shows that Mary Moreton was married to Jonathan Woodnotte, of Shavington."

It would be a happy thing for old Cheshire should the owner of Little Moreton chance to see this note, and determine to do what he or she can to arrest the progress of this needless destruction.

T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[787] THE LEAD-WORKS TOWER, CHESTER.

I am told that, many years ago, the large and handsome circular tower at the Leadworks, on the canal side, had "settled" to such an extent that it was feared it might need to be taken down and re-built; but that some ingenious contrivance was adopted which set the structure right. In what year did the deflection take place, and what and by whom were the means used to remedy the evil?

H. S. A.

[788] THE DARK ENTRY, CHESTER.

In an old newspaper of from 30 to 40 years ago, I sometime since read of an old lady being accidentally burnt to death in the "Dark Entry." As there is apparently no place now existing in Chester answering to the name, I should be glad to know in what locality it was situated, and when it was obliterated from the ground plan of the city?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[789] BRIDGE HOUSE, CHESTER.

[Nos. 376, 454.—Nov. 20, Jan. 1.]

This house is marked on Lavaux's large plan, engraved in or about the year 1745, while he was engaged in setting out the defences of the Castle in anticipation of the Stuart invasion. The name of the then resident is given as "Kyffin Williams, Esq.," son of Mr. John Williams, barrister-at-law, and grandson of Sir William Williams, Bart., Recorder of and M.P. for Chester, and Speaker of the House of Commons, who probably made his abode there in an older house than the present one, during his official connection with the city. The Chester branch of the family continued to reside there for many years after 1745. In the interval between 1745 and 1776, as I find from the title deeds in the hands of the present owner, the property had become vested, perhaps virtually on lease, in Benjamin Powell, of Chester, barber; who sold his interest to Jeffrey Edwards, flaxdresser, who in turn transferred it, before 1776, to Bennett Williams, Esq., of Chester, the then occupier, representative of the Kyffin Williams of 1745. The house remained in the Bodelwyddan family in 1829, when Dr. Cumming, a noted local physician, was the tenant. In that year Sir John Williams, bart., father of the late Sir John Hay Williams, and of Hugh Williams, of Kington, co-Warwick, barrister-at-law, made his will, and, dying Oct., 1830, left this house to his widow Lady Margaret Williams "for her life and widowhood, provided she should reside therein, and not let it to a tenant, but make it her chief residence during her widowhood." I am not aware if she ever actually occupied BRIDGE HOUSE, but she only survived her husband about five years. The after tenants were the late Rev. C. B. Tayler (of St. Peter's), Messrs. Forde, Hostage, Martindale and Stuart, and Ruinet, the present owner being Mr. Robert Wilbraham Jones, of the Temple, London, barrister-at-law. It would thus seem that, since almost the date of its erection, and probably the older house also, from 1675 down to the present time, barristers or solicitors have been continuously associated with the property.

G. T.

[790] THE MAYOR OF CHESTER'S PILLORY.

This engine of punishment formerly occupied the angle of junction of the Bridge-street and Eastgate-street Rows, opposite the High Cross and the Pentice. Your correspondent, "G. T.," states it to have faced the latter; but this appears open to some doubt, as an Old Cestrian, who witnessed the last employment of it, informed me its occupant had his face turned towards Bridge-street. Its position is mentioned at some length in the Act of Parliament of 2nd of George 3rd (1761-2). It was apparently (together with its companions the Whipping Post and Stocks) a fixture, and employed only for the punishment of City offenders. There was, however, another Pillory within the City boundary, situated at the top of Castle-street, and used for the punishment of offences committed in the County proper. The first-named was, therefore, *par excellence* 'the Mayor of Chester's Pillory.'

Some years since I endeavoured to trace back the history of this particular Pillory, but could find no early or even mediæval allusion to it. There is but little doubt it was used as a City punishment from a very early period. It was well known and practised by the Saxons as the Halefang, and under the Norman feudal system was one of the essential appendages to the View of Frankpledge.

The earliest authenticated instance of its use in Chester that I have met with is thus detailed in No. 1929 of the Harleian MSS.:—On Aug. 13, 1663, at Chester.

"One Fox of Ireland was arraigned for speaking treason, viz., that as he had lately prosecuted the late King to death, so he would do this. On Saturday after, he was adjudged to the Pillory, where he stood hours and lost his ears."

The next mention appeared in 'the Newes' of Aug. 18, of the following year:—

"Chester, Aug. 15. Upon Monday last here was tried one Pool (formerly a Sequestrator) for Seditious words, which being proved against him, he was adjudg'd to stand in the Pillory two hours at the time of Market, and fin'd an hundred pounds to his Majesty."

In Randle Holme's 'Academy of Armory' published in 1638, is the representation of a double Pillory, and it probably depicted the City engine of punishment of that date. Offenders when placed in it were, according to his description "to be mocked, derided, and made a common spectacle, that all Beholders may see and beware of the like offences, and do no such wickedness."

The Corporation accounts make but little mention of it, the earliest I have found are the following:—

"1747. Paid the guards for attending	
Bithell in the pillory	6 0
1771. April 27. Paid twelve Con-	
stablemen by Mr. Mayor's order	
for attending whilst Mary	
Axson stood in the pillory.....	12 0."

The last occasion of its employment was during the Race week in the year 1800, when a bricklayer named Steele was exhibited in it. My informant, who was an eye-witness of it, told me Steele was very severely pelted by the mob, and it reminded him of the following passage in Gay's *Trivia* (book 2),

"Where elevated o'er the gaping crowd
Clasp'd in the board the perjur'd head is bow'd,
Betwixt retreat; here,—thick as hail-stones pour,
Turnips, and half-hatch'd eggs, (a mingled show'r)
Among the rabble rain,—some random throw
May with the trickling yolk thy cheek o'erflow."

Very shortly afterwards, and probably in consequence of the severe treatment received by the occupant, the City authorities directed the removal of the Pillory and the necessary abolishment of this form of punishment. The order for this appeared in the Assembly Book of the Chester Corporation in the following words:—

"At the Assembly held in the Common Hall on May 26, 1800. Ordered, on the recommendation of the City Lands Committee, that the Pillory and Stocks at the Cross shall be pulled down as soon as convenient, in order to improve the turn at the end of Bridge Street, under the directions of the City Treasurers, who are to be supported by this Incorporation, in case any action or actions shall be brought against them."

One of the first Acts of the first Parliament (1837) held under her present Majesty was to abolish the use of the Pillory, which then happily passed into the list of Obsolete Punishments. Let it be recorded to the honour of the Chester Corporation, that they had the courage and humanity to direct its abolition in their City, 37 years before!

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

AUGUST 27, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Aug. 27.—James II. visited Chester	1637
" 29.—Great fire without the Northgate, Chester.....	1564
" 30.—Abbot Simen Ripley, of Chester, died.....	1491
" 31.—Earl Leofric died at Bromley	1057
Sept. 1.—A column of Exchequer Court, Chester, raised in presence of the Judges ...	1809
" 2.—Freedom of Chester City presented to Prince William of Gloucester.....	1803

J. H.

Original Documents.

[791] LETTER TO RANDLE HOLME, JUN'R.

The following curious Letter from a brother-in-law of the third RANDLE HOLME is preserved in Harleian MS. 2039, folio 227, being part of the Collection of Cheshire MSS. formed in the 17th century by that industrious local herald and antiquary:—

"Letter to Randle Holmes, junr.

Good Brother,

I suppose you expected long before this my summons to meet Cousin Walker, but his summons came so late to us that we had not a conveniency by Post, or any other way to give you an item. We were both of us there at Midsomer, when I delivered him your Father's Letter, and acquainted him that I had a Table of Arms for him, and gave him the blazon of them.

He said he is truly informed that his Arms come from the Bishopwick of Durham, and that, therefore, there is some mistake in this w'ch you have drawne; yet he resolves to pay you for your paynes when next he sees you. I desired an answer to your Father's letter, but it would not then conveniently be given, but will be exactly returned you by him or some other at Michaelmas, when he thinks to visit you. It would be glad some newes to mee to hear of your Father's welfare. To whom, with my honoured Aunt, dear Sister, and other relations, best service and Respects are returned, from my wife and self.

In great hast, Dear Brother,

Yo'r truly affectionate Brother and Serv't

THOMAS SOLEY.

Hartlebury, [Worcestershire],

July 9, 59.

We return yo'r thanks for your late courteous visit, unfeignedly wishing it may be multiplied, as also for my Table of Arms. My service to Mr. Hunt, Father Brown, and his Consort."

The Letter, which I have transcribed verbatim, is thus addressed:—

"These for his very Dear Brother Mr.

Randle Holme, junior, w'th
Speed, in the Bridge Street,
in

Post pay'd.

West Chester."

On referring to Ormerod, I find the above Randle Holme married to his first wife, Sarah, eldest daughter and co-heir of Henry Soley, of Horton, co. Salop, clerk. She died 5th April, 1665, aged 36, leaving issue; so that the above letter must have been written by her brother Thomas, and, if she was a co-heir to her father's property, this brother must have died before her. By this we find the above letter was written in 1659.

London.

J. B. M.

Notes.

[792] SCROPE AND GROSVENOR ROLL.

(Continued from No. 785.)

The two vols. now proceed apparently page for page as far as 252 inclusive; then a break occurs in the 4to, pages 253-60 inclusive being wholly omitted. The vols. then go on page and page from 261 to 264, but the latter page in the folio contains one line more than it does in the 4to. Page 265 runs line for line as far only as line 11 from the top, and the lines do not recover their conformity in length till line 17, from whence they preserve it to the end of the evidence of Hugh de Huls, the latter part of which is very imperfect, but page 265 containing two lines more in the folio than it does in the 4to.

In page 266 there is appended, in the 4to, a note to the evidence of Hugh de Huls; while in the folio this note is only referred to immediately after Hugh's evidence thus—"Vid. note 1, p. 359." Turning to page 359, which is the first page of the "Notes" in the folio, I find the note, given at page 266 of the 4to, is identical as far only as the words "in which they followed," after which in the 4to the following passage, which I cannot find in the folio anywhere, occurs:—

"The places at which the commission was successively held are stated in the instruments printed in pp. 245-252. Such of the membranes as contain the commencement of proceedings at any of those places have been arranged in their relative order, according to that statement. The proper position of others has been ascertained by the references which occur in them to prior depositions; and the arrangement of the rest has received the sanction of Mr. Ormerod, the historian of Cheshire. The commencement of each membrane is thus marked:—
[* * * * *]"

In the folio the following passage is placed after the word "followed"; which I quote, because I think it gives the clue to the reason for cancelling the sheets which follow:—

"The arrangement adopted in the text is justified by an Abstract of the Roll in the Harleian MS. 293, f. 191, which supplies the names and ages of the witnesses to those depositions which are missing. This abstract was made at least as early as the reign of Elizabeth, and contains the list of documents produced in the cause, the dates of the examinations, the names and ages of the witnesses, and the names of the places at which they were examined. The testimony of Hugh de Huls was followed by that of Sir Richard Wynnynghton, Knight, set: 40, which is lost."

From this passage, I think, the inference is plain (and possibly Sir Harris Nicolas explains it in his edition of the Roll), that the "arrangement" of the evidence in the folio is modelled on the abstract found

in the Harleian MS., and not simply on the imperfect Record preserved in the Tower. It seems also equally clear from the note I have quoted from p. 266 of the 4to, that the imperfect Record in the Tower was the sole guide for the arrangement adopted in that vol. And this is the more evident when we come to p. 267 of the 4to, which has at the top six asterisks between brackets—which mark, as we have been told, the commencement of a membrane—with this note at the foot:—

"This membrane is introduced here on account of the allusion it contains to the testimony of William de Brereton, whose deposition occurs in page 262, and is a continuation of the depositions taken at St. John's, Chester."

This note is not found in the folio. Now follows a totally different arrangement of the witnesses in the 2 vols; and the inference seems to be that at first the Tower Record was the accepted text from which the editors commenced to print, and that subsequently, owing to the discovery of the transcript in the Harleian MSS., or to some other cause probably explained by Sir Harris Nicolas in his companion vol., the imperfect Record was abandoned so far as arrangement was concerned, and the transcript preferred,—hence these "cancelled sheets" so carefully preserved in this 4to vol. by Sir Charles G. Yeung. But to proceed with the collation. The folio has, following Hugh de Huls at page 266, Hamon de Ascheley's evidence. "Hamon" is printed in brackets. The evidence of this witness is found at p. 318 of the 4to, but without the name "Hamon" prefixed to it, and with an interesting note which is not to be found in the folio. Six asterisks between brackets, too, denote that this witness commences, or is the first now found at all events on, this particular membrane. The note is as follows:—

"The record of the proceedings at Coventry, which took place on the 26th Nov., 1386, and at Sandbach, on Monday, the 8th of January, 1387, is missing."

"The following examinations are presumed to be part of those taken at St. Mary's, Chester, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th of January, 1387. This Church, which, from its situation and ancient name of St. Mary de Castro, is supposed to have been appendant to that local palace of the Norman Earls, is still connected with it and the County by the resort of Judges and Juries to prayers at Assizes, interment of county criminals in its cemetery, and the fact of its parish lying chiefly in the County Palatine. On this account it might have been selected for the attendance of official personages, who compose the greater part of the witnesses. Among them appear, besides the Mayor and Abbot, Matthew del Mere, who probably then held some office, and who was afterwards Escheator and Judge: Toft, Constable of Halton Castle: and Capenhurst, an Alderman, who succeeded Armorer as Mayor."

In passing, I should mention that the fact of taking evidence at Coventry, Sandbach, and St. Mary's, Chester, is to be found stated in note 3, p. 360, of the folio.

(To be continued)

W. W. FF.

Queries.

[793] JAMES I. AT CHESTER.

In your "Weekly Diary of Local Events" for last week I notice that your industrious correspondent "J. H." quotes August 23, 1617, as the date of the sapient King's state visit to Chester. Is this correct? In my copy of *Lysons' Magna Britannia,—Cheshire*, p. 563, I find it distinctly stated that August 21 was the day of his Majesty's arrival in the old city. One of these statements is, of course, wrong; and I should be glad to know on good authority which, if either, is the correct date, in order that I may, if need be, correct the date in my copy of *LYSONS'*.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[794] THE KALEYARDS GATE, CHESTER.

When was this postern first permitted to be made through the Walls of the City? In mediæval times it must have been of far greater architectural importance than now, and would, I suppose, be guarded night and day like the rest of the city gates. Who were the parties in those days responsible for its safe custody?

L. L.

[795] SIR PETER WARBURTON.

Mr. SALISBURY has given a short notice of this eminent Cestrian in his "Border Counties Worthies": but he has not referred to the fact of his having signed his name to the declaration of the Lincoln's Inn Association, formed in the latter part of the sixteenth century against the "new designs of the Pope, Spaniard, and the Guisees for invading England." Leicester hit upon this scheme, whereby the well affected bound themselves "by vows, subscriptions, and seals, to prosecute to the death, as far as lay in their power, all those that should attempt anything against the Queen": and Mr. Collier in "The Egerton Papers" sets forth the Lincoln's Inn Declaration, and says it was signed by ninety-five members, among the subscribers being the names of Thomas Egerton, then Solicitor-General, and Peter Warburton. Mr. Egerton, not long afterwards (1598) as Lord Ellesmere, was appointed Chamberlain for the County of Chester, and he was allowed to appoint Peter Warburton as his vice-Chamberlain. Mr. J. P. Collier copies the official appointment (which he says is somewhat damaged) thus:—

"BY THE QUEEN.

Trusty and welbelovyd, we greete you well. Where we have appointed you to exercise the office of Chamberlain of our Countie Palatin of Chester, by your self, or by your sufficient deputy, to a (def. in MS.): for as much as Peter Warburton, Esquier, doth, by virtue of our former warrant in that behalfe, occupy (def. in MS.) of vice-Chamberlaine of our said Countie Palatin of Chester, and that he is by you thought a meete man to be your deputie, we doe by these our letters allowe him to be so, as long as you shall fynde him fitt to supply the place in your absence. Given under our signet at our House of Hampton Court, the twelvth daye of March, in the six and thirtieth yeere of our Raigne.

WINDEBANK."

It is very pleasant to find how in those "good old times" Bromley took care of his young countryman Thomas Lawley (a Salopian); Egerton being no less careful of his countryman Peter Warburton (a Cestrian). For however much we may have been reformed for our good, "blood was thicker than water" always, and is still; and when local men can be found who are "fyt" to hold places of honour and of trust, they should not be passed over in favour of the "foreigner," either in Church or State affairs, as is far too often done now-a-days.

NOTARY.

[796] SIMON RIPLEY.

This locally distinguished man was 23rd Abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester, and dying the 30th August, 1492, was buried at Warwick. I am anxious to learn more definitely where he was interred, if his grave or gravestone can be seen, and why he came to be buried at Warwick? Chester historians vary a little as to the exact year of his death: I have selected 1492 as apparently the best supported date.

J. H.

Replies.

[797] HUGH LUPUS, EARL OF CHESTER.

[Nos. 706, 772.—June 18, Aug. 6.]

A similar Plate to the one referred to by your correspondent will be found in *Ormerod's History of the County*. The "Scribe" is supposed to represent the clerk, or secretary of the Earl, an office no doubt at that time, very considerable. The "crowd of men standing," &c., represent not mere idle spectators, but certainly nobles of the Palatine of every degree, many being, in point of power, little less than the barons. The design of the plate was evidently by one who understood the history and form of government of the Palatine pretty well; and perhaps the only objection that can be taken to this picture is the position of the "bar" of the house, and the very formal Flemish

garden-like rows of barons and abbots; the latter of whom are made to sit (if I recollect rightly) on the left hand instead of the right of their sovereign, (as the ecclesiastics of the period, of course, never failed to do what their pious predecessors never intended they should, use the well-bred consciences of the laity for their own worldly preferment). It is more probable that the sovereign in council (afterwards, at Westminster, called a Parliament), sat at the head of a dais in the hall of the Castle of Chester, with his barons around him; whilst "below the salt," stood, and sat, the rest of the nobles of the Palatine—all precisely as the lord of a manor sat in his hall on Court days, high days, and holidays, with his frank-tenants, copyholders, and others about him (a fashion, most likely of very remote antiquity, and no doubt first set by royalty).

Now a feudal lord, whether of one manor, or baron of several, was in truth almost as much sovereign of his fee as the king was of England. The latter, it may also be added, was never, perhaps, so absolute here as in other countries; the whole of a powerful baronage forming a guard of great strength, till the invention of baronies by Writ, but more particularly baronies by patent, considerably weakened it, and proportionately strengthened the Crown. Up to about the time of the separation of the English Parliament into two Houses, there seems to be in the spirit of history sufficient evidence to lead us to conclude that all lords of manors, according to precedence, were entitled to attend the Sovereign's great Council (or Parliament, if we so choose to call it): but although in the neighbourhood of Westminster the number was great, few living at a distance in those simple patriarchal times would care to trouble themselves about so cheap an honour with a long and difficult journey before it. The statement is that the "Parliament" was divided into two separate establishments "because of the crowd." This may have been one reason; but the other and greater, that ultimately prevailed, probably originated (after Simon de Montford's time) in an idea of Hen. III. (or perhaps his son the Prince), of strengthening the Crown. At all events it must have had that effect decisively when *Patents* of peerage became the order of the day.

The reign of the Norman Sovereigns of this Palatine however came to an end, as all know, many years before the division of the Parliament of England; for the Palatine was not really looked upon for many a long day as being in England, as it was in fact quite as entirely separate a sovereignty as Normandy was with respect to France, and probably Brittany with respect to Normandy, (supposing Brittany was originally, as is most likely, a subinfeudation of Normandy.) However, these remarks will serve to illustrate in some measure, the position of things during the dominion of the Norman Palatines. There can be no doubt, from the whole spirit of history, from the time of Rollo to Hen. III., that the Courts of the Chester sovereigns were on the same model as those of their

paramount lords, the English kings. Consequently all lords spiritual and temporal (the former then being much more temporal than they were spiritual), that is, all territorial lords—the *land* having been the life of all ancient titles—were entitled from their several lordships (or parts of lordships, for it is impossible to draw the line), to attend as we see them in the Plate referred to by "GLADWYN." They were all tenants, more or less, of the sovereign; and it is reasonable to suppose that as the arms of all (whether seignior or military) tenants were welcome in the camp, the voice of the wiser was listened to in these public councils, wherever his body stood in the crowd. For I hope, for the credit of our county, the passions of the petty minded never yet drowned the honest voice of a real Cheshire man. A poorer man, it is true, was often paramount lord of a richer, and the latter the paramount of another who was paramount of the first; so that as far as *precedence* is concerned, the difficulty could only be resolved by the actual status of the lord, as knight, squire, or gentleman. The feudal strong links which bound the whole in service to each other, and the rank derived from tenure, would no doubt equalise them pretty well, notwithstanding the wealth of acres of some; and the crowd in the picture does not on the whole convey a very inaccurate idea of the appearance of the court of the Palatine Count held in the hall of Chester Castle in the days of Hugh Lupus and his more immediate successors.

[Since writing the above, I perceive the Editor's notice of part of the question in last Wednesday week's *SHEAF*, and I must apologise for this hurried note.]

Cheshire, Aug. 11th, 1879.

S. S.

[798] RICHARD BLACKBOURNE, PAINTER.

[No. 741.—July 16.]

This artist was born in 1604; but whether he was a native of Chester, or even of the county (unless it were of Poole, for a reason hereafter to be stated) is more than I can tell. The surname itself belongs rather to Lancashire than Cheshire. He was a personal friend of the third Randle Holme, and it is mainly from the scattered notices of him in that local herald's *Academy of Armory* that the little I am able to tell of him is gleaned.

RANDLE HOLME dedicates Book I., chap. X. of his curious work to "Richard Blackburn, gent.," and five other citizens, "seeing," as he says, "you have been ever Forward to Promote the Interest of the Author thereof." Then in book III., Chap. III., p. 136. HOLME, describing "A way to find what day of the Month every first Sabbath day is, by two verses, knowing the Dominiical Letter, gives us two keys,—one the well-known distich—

"At Dover Dwells George Brown, Esquire,
Great Christopher Finch And David Frier"—
and the other, much more stiffly concise and stilted,

"All Do Die, Good, Bad, End,—
Get Christ First, A Dear Friend,"

to which is appended the signature, "*Ric. Blackburn, fecit.*" At page 156 of the same chapter HOLMES is describing Men famous for the Art of Printing; and after enumerating many of the Great Masters of his own and earlier times, he says, "Nor must I be unmindful of our one [own] Countrymen, who have been and are able to equal the best; as, Mr. HILLIARD and ISAAC OLIVER, inferior to none in Christendom for the Face or Countenance in small, Sir PETER LILLY for Women's Faces, Mr. RICHARD BLACKBORNE for a fleshy Face scarce any before him, and an excellent Poet. Mr. William Bumbury, Wilcocks, Hodges, and Hodgkiss, all good Painters by the Life and otherwise."

HOLMES speaks of his friend in the above extracts as "an excellent Poet;" but I have seen nothing attributed to hispen which at all deserves such an encomium. The two lines quoted above are simply atrocious, and the laudatory verses by BLACKBOURNE printed at the beginning of Randle Holmes's work are certainly not sufficient to give him rank as a "poet." The first eight and the last four lines of his rhyming jingle will be sufficient to shew his style. In the heading to his verses "Randle Holmes," he discovers the anagram "Lo Men's Herald" (he might also have added "Solemn Herald"), and, playing upon the idea, thus proceeds:—

"This Title *Herald* which doth thee adorn
Was given thee soon after thou was born;
The Priest e'en at the Font sure could divine,
When he bestowed on thee that name of thine:
He then foretold thy Calling and thy Fame
And therefore he Wove *Herald* in thy Name.
Now his Prediction thou hast fulfill'd
In *Heraldry* there is none better skill'd.

* * * * *
"Twixt *Mercury* and thee, there's but this odds,
Thou art Man's Herald, and he was the God's!
By him who Eighty four years hath out worn
Unfit for Rime, but more fit for his Urne.

Richard Blackburn, Cest."

From the last two lines we glean that the "poet" was born in or about 1604, but no clue is given to indicate his birthplace. Some further and later particulars shall form the basis of a future Reply.

T. HUGHES.

[799] CHESHIRE AUTHORS.—THOMAS CASE.

[Nos. 752, 763, 743, 782.—July 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13.]

THOMAS CASE the Puritan Divine can hardly be claimed as a Cheshire man. By marriage and descent he was closely connected with the county of Lancaster. For a few months Case was Rector of Southport, having been appointed by the Committee for Plundered Divines, July 31, 1645. He resigned early in the year following. (cf. *Nonconformity in Cheshire*, p. 431.)

For a concise account of all that is probably known of Thomas Case I would refer E.G.S. to Mr. Earwaker's exhaustive work on *East Cheshire, Past and Present*, vol. 1, p. 388. (London, 1877.)

Gayley.

P. M. H.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 3.—Sir Lawrence Smith, knight, Alderman of Chester, died.....	1581
„ 4.—Communication between the Dee and the Canal at Water Tower opened	1776
„ 5.—Edward Copleston, D.D., installed 25th Dean of Chester.....	1826
„ 6.—Musical Festival at Chester Cathedral...	1791
„ 7.—Hamblett Ashton hanged at Chester for killing a tapster at Nantwich.....	1663
„ 8.—Sir Robert Brerewood, Recorder of Chester, died	1654
„ 9.—Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., departed from Chester.....	1498

J. H.

Original Documents.

[800] WREXHAM AND HAWARDEN IN THE CIVIL WARS.

In Peter Broster's *History of the Siege of Chester* are some particulars of the Leaguer of HAWARDEN CASTLE, and of the services of the Chester garrison in bringing about its surrender to the Royalists. Held originally for the King by the servants of Lord Derby, it was treacherously handed over to Sir William Brereton by Thomas Ravenscroft and John Aldersey, two Hawarden men in charge of the Castle, who were thereupon constituted its keepers for the Parliament as a reward for their treason.

On the 22nd November, 1643, there arrived and sat down before the fortress a small body of soldiers trained to war in Ireland, whence they had only just returned, under the command of Sir Michael Ernely and Colonel Gibson. Their junior was that redoubtable free-lance Captain THOMAS SANDFORD, whose name while yet a subaltern had grown to be a terror to the Irish rebels, by the havoc he had played amongst them on more than one occasion during the late war.

BRERETON had got wind of their arrival, and within a few hours had despatched two letters to the strangers, avowedly to tempt them from their allegiance, and to

win them over to the "righteous Cause." How the tempters fared will be seen when we come to read, as we soon shall, the reply of the tempted. Sir William Brereton's head-quarters at that time were at Wrexham, where he had posted himself to overawe the loyal men of Denbigh and Flint.

Two messengers left Wrexham, one shortly after the other, to interview the new arrivals: one was probably a drummer,—the other an officer, who in his hurry had ventured away without the necessary pass, and, as we shall see, got thereby into trouble. Brereton's wily letter, preserved amongst the evidences at Sandford, was to the following effect:—

"To the ho'bell Colonells, S'r Michall Ernely, S'r flulke Hunkes, Knight, and Colonell Gibson.

S'r's,

Beinge assured that amongst the forces now arived in Wales, your regiments haue likeways entered these parts. Wee haue thought good before theare be any further p'ceedings tending towards Hostilitie to aplye our selves to you in this way, That soe if it be possibell, you may rightly vnderstand vs, and wee may not mistake you; and soe happilie you and wee, hauinge formerly ventered our persons in one and the same quarrell in England and Ireland, may not now through mistakes or misinformation be devided, and wee vnder the brand of rebels be made enimies, whose most willingly would venture lives and goods and all that is deare vnto vs, in defence of his ma'ties persone and lawfull Claime, and wee wish wee may not other wayes prosper the' as our intentions are true towards him.

Now, S'r's, gine vs leave to tell you, that we apprehended and are assured your voyage into Ireland was to fight against popish rebels, and for the p'testant religion wheare in you have expressed great fidelitie. And it would seeme very strange vnto vs, you shold be soe zealous in that cause theare, and shold be wrought upon to ioyne with papists and Irish rebels, to fight against protestants neare: wee imagine you are not yett thoroughly informed of the Cause of takeinge vp of Armes; or if you weare (as some now with vs) formerly ingaged in the Irish service with you, are of opinion Could not be ingaged ag't vs: for this reason wee haue tendered our respects vnto you, and if you shew your selves the gentellmen wee formerly knew you, at your last departure out of this Kingdome, wee doubt not but to p'cure satisfaction from the parliment for the service you haue donne in Ireland, with the like preferment heare, and show your selves as reall heare for the p'testant religion as you did theare, which will engage vs all to remaine

Your affectionate and faithfull friends
to searve you,

WILL' : BRERETONE.
GEORGE BOOTH
JOHN BOOTH
PETER HOULCROFT

Wrexham:

22 No'ber, 1643.

If you please to accept of a parlie we shall be redie at apoyntment time and place, hopeinge it shall be a meanes to satisfie each other before wee enter into bloode, and we shall ingage our honors for your safe Cominge and returninge, and wee expect from you.

fearinge the former might miscarrie wee haue thought good to send this letter alsoe, althought wee sent the other to the same effect."

In this mission Brereton expressed his anxiety that his correspondents might "rightly vnderstand him, and he not mistake them;" and within a couple of days he was made fully aware of the kind of stuff he was tampering with, by the receipt of the following soldierlike letter:—

"Gentlemen,

Wee weare not engaged in the service of Ireland other wayes then by the Kinges Commission. The service wee haue donne theare envie it selfe dares not extenuate. And although wee are very sendibell how vnworthily wee haue ben desertet by your p'tended Parliament, yett wee are not returned hither with out his ma'ties speciall Com'ission and Authoritie.

If you can shew the like Com'ission from the Kinge for the Armes you Carrie, wee shall willingly treat with you; other wayes you must give vs leave to Carrie our selves like soldiers and Loyall Subjects.

MICHAEL ERNELY.
RICHARD GIBSON.
FFRA. BUTLER.
EDWARD HAMOND.
GEORGE HINDES.

Hawarden, the 24:
of No'ber, 1643.

That officer of your Army which Came into our quarters with out a safe Conduct we detain, till his ma'ties pleasure be further knowne."

There is a smart ring about this reply, that seems to indicate that the scribe was none other than our old friend Captain THOMAS SANDFORD, or that he had, at all events, a hand in its compilation.

The sequel to this correspondence is well known matter of local history. The strangers attacked the garrison by regular siege; but failing to effect an immediate surrender, they applied to CHESTER for assistance, and HAWARDEN Castle promptly succumbed, becoming, thereupon, a royalist fortress once more, as described in an earlier No. of THE SHEAF.

EDITOR.

POTTS.

[801] THINGS I REMEMBER, No. 7.
CHESTER IN 1815.

Many changes have passed over our ancient city in the course of the last sixty-five years. I recollect one

which may surprise some of my readers. Few will be prepared to learn that Cotton Spinning was ever one of the industries of Chester; and yet I remember a cotton mill in Steam-mill-street (anciently *Horn Lane*). It is true it was then standing empty, I suppose from its being found unprofitable to work; and it soon after became a flourishing steam flour mill, under the direction of Messrs. Frost, the father and uncle of the present active, well-to-do proprietors.

In those days, too, Chester possessed a flourishing shipbuilding yard, conducted by Messrs. Cortney, on the northern side of the Roodeys, near the old Work-house, and opposite to Brewer's Hall. A few years later Mulvey's shipyard on the same spot was familiar to a younger generation of Cestrians. These were both lost to the city, through the rival claims of Liverpool and Birkenhead, and the substitution of iron for wooden ships. Near this also was about the same early date a Paper Mill conducted by Alderman George Harrison, who likewise carried on an Iron Foundry close by: these, too, have been discontinued, and the proprietor has, in a green old age, long since passed away from us.

Formerly the Glove Trade, as is I suppose well known, was a flourishing business in Chester; and I recollect well that the glove was regarded as an emblem of Chester Trade; and that at our two great Chester chartered Fairs in July and October, a glove, carved I think in wood, was hung out from the roof of St. Peter's Church at the Cross, to show that traders from a distance, though not sworn Freeman, might carry on their business without fear of being pounced upon by the city authorities. But, perhaps, I had better not weary your readers with more of an old citizen's recollections; so I will stop for the present, and return in thought to the concerns of daily life in 1879.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

[802] SCOPE AND GROSVENOR ROLL.

(Continued from No. 792.)

Following after the evidence of Hamon de Ascheley the folio gives the names and evidence of ten other witnesses, viz.: Mathew del Mere, Robt. de Toft, John Le Armurer (Mair de Cestre), Johan de Comphurst, Thomas Duncalf, Johan de Holford, John de Doumville, Mons. Rauf de Vernoun, Chevalier, Arthur de Davenport, and William de Merston (Abbe del Abbey de Sainte Werburgh de Cestre). The names and evidence of these witnesses are given in the same order after the evidence of Hamon de Ascheley at page 318 of the 4to, and are continued to page 324, the last page in the vol. I have not leisure to collate the evidence of these witnesses as given in the two vols., line for line; but the evidence of each contains in each vol. the same number of lines, and so far as I can judge seems identical in each vol. In this folio, at p. 273, and following William de Merston, is the evidence of Randolph

Maynwaring, who is followed successively by William de Stanlegh, John Maynwaryng, Geoffrey de Boidell, Mons. Johan de Asch'ton, Chivalier, Johan Pygot, Robt. de Stanlegh, Esquier, William de Hulme, Esquier, Johan de Clyf de Macolesfield, Esquier. In the 4to the evidence of these witnesses (including Randolph Maynwaring) begins at p. 274, where the six asterisks show that a fresh membrane commences, and at the foot of the page is the following note:—

"The first four depositions on this membrane must also have been taken at St. John's, Chester, as they are immediately followed by the proceedings at Stockport, where the commission was next held."

Page 279 of the folio begins with the evidence of Johan Fitz Richard de Sutton, Esquier, whose deposition is placed at the head of page 280 of the 4to, and, as is shown by the asterisks, commences another membrane, with the following note at the foot of the page:—

"The membrane commencing with John Fitz Richard de Sutton may be considered as a combination of the depositions taken at Stockport, from the fact of the witnesses being, with the exception of the Stanleys, settled near Stockport, or on that side of the county."

Then follow the names and evidence of twelve witnesses, which are the same and in the same order in both vols., ending with Robt. de Dounes. After him are interposed in the folio the names and evidence of four witnesses before we come to the evidence of Johan de Henford, which occurs at the same page in each vol., viz., 285, and after whose evidence in the 4to is a reference thus—[Vide Not. 2, p. 359]. The 4to does not, however, comprise 359 pages, but the folio has the note at p. 359, which refers to Johan de Henford's evidence, and informs us of the depositions which followed his,—information, gained, I imagine, from the Harleian MS. The two vols. then proceed page for page and witness for witness to p. 293 inclusive. Here the continuity is broken. The folio continues the evidence of Mathew de Haydok on p. 293, while the 4to at this page introduces a cancel leaf (pp. 293-4) headed on page 293 by the name and evidence of William de Chisnale, and containing also the names and evidence of Johan de Aeshurst, Richard de Atherton, Mathew de Sotheworth, Mons. William de Atherton, Chivalier, and part of the evidence of Mathew Haydock,—all of whose names and evidence had been given before on pp. 291-2 of both vols.; but the reason for the cancel is apparent from the 4to. In page 291 the evidence of Richard de Atherton follows without any break immediately after that of Johan de Aeshurst; but in p. 293 of the cancel leaf in the 4to asterisks are interposed between the depositions of these witnesses, showing that the evidence of Richard de Atherton commences a new membrane, and at the foot is this note:—

"The next membrane is introduced here on account of its references to the deposition of Sir

William de Atherton, whose examination occurs on the preceding membrane. All the witnesses lived in the neighbourhood of Warrington, where, there can be no doubt, these depositions were taken."

I should draw attention to the fact of p. 291 being headed by the evidence of Ralf de Standisch—which immediately precedes that of William de Chisnale—and that unless the editor meant to reject Ralf's evidence altogether, or meant the cancel and the original pp. 291-2 to be bound up together, some further cancel would have been necessary to make the correction complete.

The two vols now, though the paging has been thrown out by the cancel, observe the same order in the names and evidence of the witnesses, as far as p. 297 of the folio and p. 299 of the 4to, about the close of the evidence of William de Moston. To this witness' evidence is appended an interesting note in the 4to not found in the folio:—

"In the membrane which commences on the following page the references to Sir William de Atherton are continued. Of the first six deponents, three were Lancashire men, of the neighbourhood of Warrington; the Prior of Birkenhead and William de Tranmere resided about 18 miles from that town, and Thomas Vernon had many Lancashire connexions. That these depositions were taken at Warrington is proved by the circumstance of the latter portion of the membrane containing the examinations taken at Lancaster, the fifth place at which the Commission is held. Warrington is the fourth."

William de Moston is followed in both by Geffray Massie—but in the 4to his evidence is preceded by asterisks indicating, as mentioned in the above note, the commencement of another membrane.

W. W. FF.

To be Continued.

[803] CHESHIRE WEATHER-PROVERB.

In conversation to-day with a Cheshire gentleman, who has lived half his life upon the sea, and is a local authority on weather topics, he reminded me of a Proverb, current in our county in the days of his boyhood, that

"A Saturday's moon, and Sunday's full,
Never was foine, and never wull."

He referred me to the almanac for this year, where I found it was New Moon on Saturday the 19th of July, and Full Moon on Saturday the 2nd of August, New Moon again on Sunday the 17th, and Full Moon on Sunday the 31st! I suppose it wont do to charge upon our old friend the Moon all the responsibilities for the heavy wet we have had for months past: but it is at least a curious coincidence that the moon and the weather have run so closely in harness during the last six weeks; and that the "great flood" we have been and are all so much deploring, occurred on Sunday

the 17th August, the very day the moon entered on its "new" phase!

The same thing occurred in March and April of the present year; and it will be remembered that the spring of 1879, like the rest of the year so far, was not distinguished for its absence from heavy rain.

G. T.

Queries.

[804]

MRS. HELEN LEIGH.

I asked a question very lately in THE SHEAF about Mrs. Dorothy Leigh. I now seek information about a Cheshire authoress of the same surname, who published a volume of Poems (4to, pp. 101) nearly a century ago. The book is entitled: "*Miscellaneous Poems, | By HELEN LEIGH, | of Middlewich. | Manchester : | Printed by C. Wheeler, and sold by Mess. Clarke, Booksellers, in the Market-place. | M, Dcc, lxxviii.*" It is dedicated to Thomas Willis, Esq. [of Swettenham]. In a short preface Mrs. Leigh hopes that "declaring herself the wife of a Country Curate and mother of seven children" will be deemed sufficient apology for the publication of her Poems. There is an interesting list of nearly eight hundred subscribers, most of them residents in Cheshire.

Gatley.

P. M. HERFORD.

[805]

THE CYCLE.

The following copy of an advertisement is taken from an old Chester paper:—

"Mr. BOYCOTT will hold his CYCLE, at Bolesworth Castle, on Monday next, December 30th, 1805.

Bolesworth Castle, THOMAS BOYCOTT.
Dec. 23, 1805."

What is meant by the above? Who was Mr. Boycott?
LANDWOR.

Replies.

[806]

THOMAS PARNELL.

[No. 771.—Aug. 6.]

According to the registers of HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, Chester, we are assured that "Archdeacon THOMAS PARNELL, D.D., [was] buried Jan. 29th, 1718." Thus A. A. will see that tradition is sometimes correct.
Ledsham. R. M.

[807]

LITTLE MORETON HALL.

[No. 786.—Aug. 20.]

As a resident in the neighbourhood of LITTLE MORETON HALL, and a great admirer of that beautiful

old building, I was much interested with MR. HUGHES' paper in THE SHEAF of the 20th August.

In the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of the 16th August there appeared a reprint of an article from the "Odd Fellows' Magazine" for August; and it is interesting as being the last contribution from the pen of Miss Meteyard, the authoress of a "Life of Josiah Wedgwood the Potter."

The article in question is entitled "A Rainy Day's Drive in Cheshire," and not a little of it has reference to old MORETON HALL. The account, as might be expected, is a very interesting one, and it would be pleasant to reproduce many passages from it in THE SHEAF. My present object in writing, however, is the less agreeable one of giving some quotations from the paper, painfully corroborative of Mr. Pickford's account of the building, in *Notes and Queries*, as quoted by Mr. Hughes.

Miss Meteyard writes:—

"To the east, and which is said to be the most ancient part of the great building, is a small chapel, a door opening from the gateway into it; and beyond, nearly filling the eastern side, are what appear to have been domestic offices of various kinds, above which are bedchambers. This whole side has a very ancient and ruined air.

"And ruin was very visibly before us, when, while the tea was making, a boy led us up a short, winding flight of stairs, near the gateway, from which opened several rooms—the flooring mostly gone, and traces of ancient panelling only left in fragments here and there. One room was filled with what appeared to be hay or litter; and the floors of the rest were mere misshapen mounds of earth, in one or more cases—for several of the rooms opened from each other—preventing the old oaken doors from being pushed back wholly or partially so. A very unwholesome and perceptible odour of taint and decay pervaded the whole of these ruined places."

Of the "gallery" the writer says:—

"The floor was formed of great slabs of stone, which, now disjointed and in ruin, seem likely, by their weight, to bring down this southern side of the hall at no late date."

The chapel is described as

"A small, mean place, now used as a carpenter's shop."

Coming to the great hall, the writer says:—

"The removal, some years ago, of a fine oaken staircase, and the insertion of a floor midway, so as to form a chamber above, has robbed the hall of the effects of its timber roof."

And once more:—

"A narrow winding staircase . . . leads up to the room formed above the hall, . . . and also to some cavernous and draughty bedrooms, beyond which ruin prevents the place being further accessible."

The frequent recurrence of the word "ruin" in the above extracts is very ominous.

Many will echo MR. HUGHES' wish that, as far as possible, the progress of this needless destruction may be arrested.

Mow Cop, Cheshire.

G. H.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 10.—Sebastopol—the news of its fall reached Chester by telegraph	1855
" 11.—James, Duke of Monmouth, won the Cup at Wallasey Races	1683
" 12.—Sir Thomas Delves, last baronet of that family, died.....	1725
" 13.—Trinity Church spire struck by lightning	1760
" 14.—Shock of earthquake felt at Chester ...	1777
" 15.—Nicholas Stratford consecrated 17th Bishop of Chester.....	1689
" 16.—William Ricklington executed for firing the Rectory house at Coddington..	1820

J. H.

Original Documents.

[808] A CHESTER MAN'S WILL, A.D. 1558.

The quaint Wills of the 16th century have, in most instances, an especial charm for the antiquary. Our forefathers of the Tudor period managed somehow to clothe even their driest legal documents with an interest to which our wordy 19th century parchments are total strangers: and yet it may be that when these latter come to be three centuries or so old, they also will have acquired some little of that halo which perhaps age alone can give.

The following Will, executed just seven months prior to the close of the reign of "Marye the quene," has some well marked points of local incident and history, which entitle it to take rank as a ripe ear in THE SHEAF. The occurrence of the name "Weste Chester" is an early example of the attempt made in Tudor and Stuart times to change the title of old CHESTER,—an effort which died out from sheer exhaustion and unfitness within the space of two centuries. The document runs as follows:—

"In Dei no'i'e, amen. The laste Day of Aprill in the yeaere of our Lorde god a thousand fyve hundredethe fyftie and eighte, I, WILL^m BRASSY of Weste

Chester, sicke in bodie and hoolle in mynde, and of good and p'fecte memorie, make this my laste will and testament in man' and forme following. FFIRST I bequeth my soule to Almighty god and o'r Ladie St. Marie and all the holie company of heaven, and my bodie to be buried in ye Church of St. Peters in ye newe Ile. Ite I will y't my Debts and fun'all expenses shal be taken fourth and payd of my hoolle goods, And after my Debtes paid and funerals expenses Discharged, I wyll that my goods be devyded into two p'ts, that is to saye, one parte to my selfe for discharge of my legacies and bequests. And another p'te to be devyded equallie amongst my children. ALSO I do declare and pronounce by this my laste will and Testame'te y't the books of myne owne hande writinge do declare and shewe all my Debts, as well w'ch are ewinge vnto me, as also all the debts w'ch I do owghe to anie p'son. ALSO my wyll is that all the reydewe of my goods remayninge ou' my sayd p'te, besyds my bequests and legacies discharged, shall remayne and come to ye hands of myne executours, to be distributed and disposed by the discreo'on of my sayd executours vpon suche of my yongeste children as are infants and haue moeste nede. Ite I geve and bequeth to St. Peters Churche my blacke gowne faced with blaake lambe. ALSO I constitute and ordaine Mr. Thomas Greene and John Laton my true and lawfull execut'rs to execute this my laste will and testame'te. I geue and bequeth to S'r Thomas Doo one sleevelesse Coate of Russell wusted. Theise beinge Wittnes, S'r Will'm Stringefellowe, Peter Gyllam, John Brine, Will'm hyl, Ales Churton, Margaret Downe, and Isabell Bithell."

OF WILLIAM BRASSEY, the testator, I know nothing except that he was a member of the good old Cheshire yeoman family of Brasseye of Bulkeley, which has in our own day risen again to its more than first estate in the persons of the late Thomas Brasey, of London, and his two well-known sons.

In the Testator's desire to be buried in St. Peter's Church, in the "newe Ile," we get a clue to the date of erection of one portion of the church,—perhaps the north aisle, which was evidently at some time an extension of the original plan. The bequest of his "blacke gowne faced with black lambe" was probably the last legacy made to St. Peter's Church in Roman Catholic times; for very shortly after this Will was executed offerings of that sort to churches were discouraged and soon went out of fashion. The executor, Mr. Thomas Green, was the eminent candle-maker and merchant, whose quaint monument with portraits of himself and his two wives has been recently restored, and now ornaments the north wall of St. Oswald's Church, where it merges in the nave of the Cathedral. "Sir Thomas Doo," and "S'r William Stringefellowe" were probably two priests serving at the altar at St. Peter's: the last named died soon after the Testator, as I find by the following entry in the earliest register of that parish:—

"S'r William Stringfield was buried 15th Oct. 1560." And again, a little later,

"John Brine [one of the witnesses] buried 23rd Dec., 1568."

S'r Thomas Doo was most likely one of the Does of Great Saughall, a family of standing and long continuance there. This sleeveless coat of *Russell wusted*," though so written in the will, was probably an error of the scribe's for *russel wusted*.

T. HUGHES.

[809]

GRESFORD AND ROSSETT.

I find the following Memorandum preserved in Harleian MS. 2039, fo. 78, in the British Museum, and from the proximity of the place named to Chester—I think it may be worth insertion in *THE SHEAF*. I was induced to copy it in the first instance from the name of MILTON, in which I am interested, occurring in the record. Perhaps its publication in your columns may elicit some further particulars on this and other points touched on in this MS. waif:—

"Gresford House, Rosset Heath Green.

"The Tenement that John Edward holdeth containeth by estimation the Seed of Forty and four new measures.

7 acres } "The Tenement that Godffrey Parrye holdeth containeth by estimation the Seed of Ten new measures and Two pecks.

"The ancient House and living to which these two tenements aforesaid were tenements before are in the right of Gogh Greene, being now the land of Mr. David Speed; which he bought of one Edwardson of the Darish, who bought the same of one John Jones, son of David ap John Hulm Gogh. These two tenements aforesaid being given to the sister of David ap John Hulm Gogh, which land she sold to one Mr. Milton, the Lady Norris her father; the which he gave with his daughter; which Sir William Norris sold unto Mr. Antony Grosvenor of Dodleston. And soe the land came unto Sir Richard Grosvenor; which land is not chargeable with any of the King's Rent, but if any Rent be, it is the Ancient House that is chargeable with the same rent."

There is no date to this paper; but from its position in the MS. volume in which I found it, it may reasonably be set down as of the time of Charles I.

London.

J. B. M.

[810]

CHESTER COTTAGES AND LODGERS.

Centuries before the New Poor Laws came into being, difficulties as to the "settlement" of WORKMEN and their families were perpetually arising in all large centres of business life. Impecunious and unsteady people were always to be found, no matter how early the date, or how strenuous the efforts of authority to stamp out the evil. CHESTER enacted in 1605, that

"No man to entertayne iourneyemen Straungers, but such as the will answers for and discharge this citie of any charge y't maie arise thereby.

ALSO at the same Assembly Mr. Maior informed and made it known to this assembly that divers inconvenienc'es, chardges, and hinderances Have growen, and doe daily growe, to this citie by the nnumber of journeymen straungers of sen'all trades and occupac'ons that are daily intertain'd by the M'rs of trades and occupac'ons within this Citie, And alsoe the lyke hinderances daily growe vnto this Citie by Inmates and Cottages.

It is therefore ordered by this assembly, That noe M'r whatsoever of any handycrafte or trade whatsoever within this Citie, or the liberties thereof, Receaours of Inmates and Landlordes of any houses or Cottag's, shall receive into their servises, houses, or Cottag's any manner of person whatsoever but such as they will answer for and discharge the Citie of any manner of chardges whatsoever, That male or shall happen to this Citie by them the said journeymen, Inmates, or tennaunts theier or any of theire wives or Children or otherwise vppon paine of Imprisonment duringe the Maiors pleasure for the tyme beinge, And tenn pounds fine to this encoorporac'on for eu'y such offence duely to be levied of the M'rs of trades and occupac'ons, receaours of Inmates and Landlordes of Cottages, soe often as the shall offend."

No doubt this resolute ORDER had some temporary effect in staying the evils complained of; but as we shall show in a future article, the serpent was merely scotched, not destroyed; and that within a very short period our local legislators had to be again at work, face to face, with a difficulty which has not been entirely mastered even in these modern days, and probably never will.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[811] THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT, 1415.

I am unaware if there has ever been a list printed of the Cheshire warriors who fought at Agincourt, Crecy, or Poitiers; but if not, and any such lists remain on record, they would furnish a most interesting catalogue of names to all who have a drop of Cheshire blood in their veins. The late Mr. W. Durrant Cooper, in a Paper printed in the *Sussex Archaeological Society's Transactions* for 1863, entitled "Sussex Men at Agincourt," gives a list of the knights, archers, &c., of his county present at the battle under the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Knight Banneret. These men of the Earl's were mostly from Sussex; but some came from his estates in Surrey, and from his property in the North Welsh counties and their borders.

On looking through this list I was struck with the many familiar names to a Cheshire man's eye occurring in the record. And as local names were almost absolutely local in those days, when few men or women ever went outside their native county, and when a Sussex man and a Cestrian probably never once met in a

generation, I am prone to believe that the names I have taken from the roll are those to a certainty of Cheshire men. The following names will illustrate my position, but others might fairly be adduced were it necessary to strengthen the argument:—

MEN AT ARMS (Armigeri)

Thomas Salmon	Thomas Forde
William Brereton	John Sonde
Randolf de Brereton	Richard Tailard
Robert Nesham [? Nedham]	John Donne
Henry Lawton	Fylchyn Chokelake
	[Shocklach]
Thomas Willabey	Robert Corbet
Ralph Venables	Roger Corbet
Robert Cotegreve	John Myddelton
Hugh Cotoun	Thomas Stokton
Utright Dod	William Codanton
Davis Boydell	John Bretton

ARCHERS.

William Celer [Saller]	Richard Leche
David Floyt	Robert Snowe
John Kalsale	Thomas Nedeham
John Shavington	William Macy
John Myllyngton	Thomas Glayve
John Knolles	Richard Malpas
Henry Houghton	Thomas Dodde
William Cradok	Llewellyn de Stapleford
Thomas Belgrave	James de Shocklache
John de Sutton	Thomas Daa
John Baggele	William Horton
Hugh Leche	Thomas Hunsterton
Thomas Asteley	Morgaunt Filkyn
John Pycton	John Codyngton
Thomas Barwe	Thomas Grafton

G. T.

[812]

CHESHIRE DIALECT.

HORSE CAUSAY. Horse Causeway. When horses' backs were the common mode of conveying both travellers and goods, these Causeways were important roads. They were paved, about 4 ft. wide, and with large mounds of earth raised at the sides, at short intervals, to prevent their being carted upon, being generally along side a grass lane. There was one a few years ago, leading from Oocleston Green by Sutton Hollow, to Middlewich, and another (without mounds) along the Lodge Lane in Kinderton.

KILLER. Kilner. A salt-killer was a man employed in kiln-drying salt. So, various kilns are called—"Malt kill," "Brick kill," "Lime kill," &c.

KINK. A knot spontaneously formed on over-twisted cord when slackened.

LAG. To loiter, or lag behind. "Liggerty lag!" a lad's exclamation.

LAY DOWN. To lend. "He laid down the money for him."

BOOTHER STONE. Boulder. There is a common idea that stones grow.

LEAD WALLERS. Commonly called "Wallers." Men employed in boiling brine for salt. The boilers or pans were formerly of lead, hence the term. (See *SHEAF*, Nos. 50 and 94, as to old lead pans found at Northwich.)

LEAD WALLING. A term descriptive of the pannage owned by different salt proprietors, and appearing in the old Parish Assessments of Middlewich, and in old Deeds. From the A.S. *welling*, or boiling—*s.g.*, In a church acct. "1639, received for walling at xxd the occupac'on "Daniell Yates 2 ooc: 5s." &c., &c.

HOO'SHE. Complainant (Cheshire), "Hoo's a tongue as u'll wear out two sets o' teeth." Respondent (Irish): "Yer Honour, and hasn't she a tongue like a rookery?"

LIVERED. Livery. Land which turns up sodden when ploughed, is so called.

LICK. To beat. "A bad ploughman licks the lad" (who drives.)

LOIT OF. To meet with, or find. "You'n find them to'ort lodge, they'n loit of some birds i'th turnips."

LOMPON. There is a place at the junction of two brooks (the Allum, and the Croco at Kinderton) called Lompon. In *Leigh's Glossary*, the same word is rendered, a pit in a farm yard, a receptacle for filth; but *Qy.*—from Lampern, or Lampron, the Fish?

LUMP. To leave, or let alone. "If yo dunna like it, yo mun lump it;" or (?) to take a disagreeable thing unquestioned, or whole, as taking a pill.

LEFE. Partiality. *Qy.* from A.S. *leof*, dilectus? "I'd as lefe you'd scrub me with a brick as call me Mrs." Said by an old farmer's wife at the beginning of this century, when home-spun linen was getting out of fashion and "Miss Nanoy's" were coming in.

LIVING TALLY. Concubinage. *Qy.* from the tallies on which reckonings were kept. Some years ago a fire occurred in H.M. Exchequer, which was said at the time to have originated in the Tally Office. The late Egerton Leigh, whose ancestor was Receiver-General for Cheshire, once showed the writer some of these. They were split hazel wands shaved on one side, and on which was written the

receipt for the money paid into the Exchequer, the counterparts being retained and deposited in the Tally Offices. An accumulation of these sticks would make a good fire! (See *Promptorium Parvo*: Camden Society's Ed.: p. 486, note 2.)

Tushingham.

B. LL. V.

[818] SCROPE AND GROSVENOR ROLL.

(Continued from No. 802.)

The 2 vols. again continue the witnesses in the same order till we come to the evidence of Thomas de Hornby, given at pp. 303-4 of the folio, and at p. 306 of the 4to. His evidence is preceded by asterisks in the 4to, denoting a fresh membrane, commencing with his deposition, to which is the following note:—

"The references to John Botiller, whose deposition occurs in the preceding membrane, and the commencement of the proceedings at Nantwich, where the commission was held next after Lancaster, leave no doubt as to the position of this membrane. Most of the witnesses resided north of Lancaster."

This note, by the way, shows strongly, as indeed do the other notes I have quoted, that when the 4to sheets were printed the abstract in the Harleian MSS. had not come to light; for the note at p. 359 of the folio informs us that this abstract, "Containing the names of the places at which they (the witnesses) were examined."

A note also, at p. 306 of the 4to, to the word "Cestre" in Thomas de Henford's evidence, informs us that:—

"This word in the original is scarcely legible. The passage in Lord Grosvenor's copy stands thus: "pr. oco qil nest de scire unquis ascun de eux arme, &c." The words "ne vist" are, however, perfectly distinct on the Roll."

The order of the witnesses then continues the same in both vols. till we come to p. 310 of the folio and p. 312 of the 4to, when, just before the evidence of Thomas de Merbury, a reference is made in the 4to to the following note:—

"New membrane commences here, which is attached to the preceding, and as all the witnesses are of Nantwich hundred, or the immediately adjacent parts of the hundreds of Eddisbury, Broxton, and Bucklow, there can be no doubt that this is its right place, and that the depositions were taken at Nantwich."

The asterisks are, however, omitted before Thomas' evidence.

The two vols again from this point continue in agreement till we reach the evidence of Randolph de Legh, p. 313 of the folio, p. 315 of the 4to. To this witness' evidence the 4to appends the following note:—

"The evidence of Randolph de Legh is repeated on the Roll, as in the following page, with the addition only, in the second instance, of the arms being painted on glass at Davenham and Shirbrook."

The agreement between the vols. in the order of witnesses is still continued to p. 315 of the folio and pp. 317-18 of the 4to, where the evidence of Henry de Beeston is given. Asterisks which follow this witness' evidence in the 4to indicate that it closes a membrane.

The 4to contains only 6 more pages, with the contents of which I have already dealt.

W. W. Ff.

(To be concluded next week.)

[814] THE HEAD OF ALL THE HOWARDS.

It may not be generally known that Sir William de Howard, the head of all the Howards, was born at Hawarden Castle, Flintshire. His father, Roger Fitz-Valerine, had the castle given to him, and the son was born at it during his parents' residence there.

According to *Dugdale*, Sir William Howard was appointed in 1293 one of the two Judges on the Northern Circuit: and by his first wife, Alice, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Fitton, a Cheshire knight, he had several children; the eldest of them being JOHN, who served in the Scottish and French wars, and who at his death in 1331 was possessed of ten manors and the honour of Clare. His son JOHN was also a very distinguished commander under Edward the Third; and his son ROBERT, who died in 1383, left a son JOHN, who died at Jerusalem, as did his son of the same name, on his way thither. The Howard inheritance passed in the younger line down to Sir Robert Howard, who married Margaret, eldest daughter of Thomas de Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; and their son, Sir John Howard, eventually succeeded as the first Duke of Norfolk in the Howard line.

MIX-MAZL

Queries.

[815] ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH, CHESTER.

This is one of the most ancient dedications in the city; at least, it has been so regarded by local historians. Is there any territorial or better known reason why this particular Saint should have been chosen by the founders? What other pre-Reformation Churches in Cheshire or its immediate western borders have received this unusual title? M. O. Y.

[816] SPITAL RAILWAY-STATION.

I have often wondered, when travelling between Birkenhead and Chester, and when the train has been stopping at this little wayside station, what reason could be given for its curious name? Spitalfields, in London, with visions of its silk dress manufactures, have generally on those occasions risen in my feminine mind; but there seems to be nothing on that score to

really associate the two. I therefore submit my plaint to the high court and jurisdiction of THE CHESHIRE SHEAF.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[817] THE BARON OF DUTTON.

[No. 751.—July 23.]

The apparent anomaly of a Scottish peer obtaining a Cheshire Barony as one of his minor titles is easily explained. When the main line of the DUTTONS of Dutton became extinct in the person of Thomas Dutton, Esq., in 1614, his only daughter and heiress Elinour married GILBERT GERARD, afterwards 2nd Lord Gerard of Bromley, co. Stafford; whose cousin Sir Charles Gerard, through his wife PENELOPE FITTON, was father of Charles Gerard, created Lord Brandon and Earl of Macclesfield, owner of the celebrated estate of GAWSWORTH, in this county.

Gilbert, 2nd Lord Gerard, had by Elinour Dutton one only surviving son, Dutton Gerard, 3rd Lord Gerard; whose grandson and ultimate successor, Digby Gerard, married his cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Charles, Earl of Macclesfield, named above. The sole issue of this union of the two branches of the Gerards was Elizabeth Gerard; which great heiress married James, Duke of Hamilton, in the peerage of Scotland, one of the blood royal of that kingdom. The Duke died fighting a duel with Charles, Lord Mohun, who had married another Gerard, and who perished in the same family encounter, on the 15th November, 1712. His Grace, as representative of the two families of DUTTON and GERARD, had, just a year before, viz.:—11th September, 1711, been created Baron of Dutton in Cheshire, and Duke of Brandon in Suffolk, in the peerage of England: and thus it is that the present Duke of Hamilton enjoys by lineal descent that Cheshire title about which our correspondent "T. T." enquired at No. 751 of THE SHEAF.

T. HUGHES.

[818] JAMES I. AT CHESTER.

[No. 798.—Aug. 27.]

When compiling the DIARY, I found the occurrence mentioned by "LUCY D. T.", was, in common with many others, placed on different days by various authorities. In the present instance I saw that whilst the Lysons gave the 21st, Hemingway, in his *History of Chester*, vol. 1, 153, quoting from King's *Vale Royal*, gives the 23rd. So thinking that Hemingway, being a citizen, would refer to official papers, and that, too, at a more recent date than the brothers Lysons, I concluded that the 23rd was correct.

To this decision I was led also by Hanshall, in his small but useful book, *The Stranger in Chester*; he, however, gives the year as 1616, but this is, I suppose, wrong.

My scanty library gives me no means to ascertain the correct day; but if someone of our more privileged readers would kindly refer to the CITY RECORDS, we should be able to correct either the Lysons or our other authorities, as the case may be.

J. H.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 17.—Chester's Charter taken away by vote of the Roundhead Parliament.....	1659
„ 18.—Duchess of Tremouille, mother of Lady Derby, visited Chester in state ...	1630
„ 19.—Parliamentary forces from Beeston Castle advance to besiege Chester	1644
„ 20.—Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., born 18th Earl of Chester	1486
„ 21.—Robert Frind consecrated 11th Abbot of Chester	1240
„ 22.—Thomas Moreton, 9th Bishop of Chester, died	1652
„ 23.—King Charles I. came to Chester with his retinue	1642

J. H.

Original Documents.

[819] ANTHONY GROSVENOR OF DODLESTON.

In the short Document relative to Gresford and Rossett contributed to last week's SHEAF by "J. B. M.," mention was made of ANTHONY GROSVENOR as having purchased property therein referred to, the which had descended from him to Sir Richard Grosvenor, first baronet of Eaton, county Chester.

Some twelve years ago, while rummaging among the loose papers, &c., in the old CONSISTORY COURT adjoining the south porch of the Cathedral, I there fell in with a MS. Volume containing a series of Sentences of Divorce pronounced at Chester, with transcripts of a few early Wills proved during the first twenty-five years of Elizabeth's reign. Amongst the latter was the will of this same ANTHONY GROSVENOR; and as it chances to be a very curious Document, and full of genealogical and local interest, I make no apology for introducing it

here as a fitting pendant to the scrap contributed by "J. B. M." It is every way too good to abridge: I therefore give it *in extenso*, as follows:—

"Anthonij Grosvenor,
W. testam'.

"In the name of god Amen, 28 m^oij, 1575. I, Antonie Grosvenor, of whole minde, I gise and bequeathe to my nephue Thomas Grosvenor, Esquier, my best Signett of gold, one standinge cuppe Dubble gilte engraven, with the Cover for the same, having in the toppe of the oover A. and G. And seing my best gelding Dotts fall to hym by order of Lawe for An heriott, I cannott gise hym to hym, butt my mind ys hee shall have hym; and I gise vnto hym alsoe my best Damaske gowne w^{ch} I bought of the executors of Mr. Sevell, w^{ch} cost me xl. It'm I gise to the Wyfe of my saied nephue iij yardes of black Damaske, And alsoe tooe old angells; & to my cosen Richard his sonne and heyre I gise one Bruche of gold enameled vpon my Taffata hatt. It'm to my nephue Richard grosvenor I gise my newe satten Dublett w^{ch} I never weare, and my Venetian newe hose, and halfe a score of my Ewes att the Appointment of my executors. It'm I gise to my Brother Richard my blacke geldinge; Desyeringe hym to bee good to my Wyfe and my Children. It'm I gise to my brother John my ffranche Crosbowe, wth the Backe, and an old Aungell. It'm I gise to my nephue George Ravenscrofte my signett of gold wth an hartes heade. To my god Daughter Katheren Rainscrofte and to Antonie her brother, my god chylidren, xxxtie Ewes equallie to bee Devided betwixt them. It'm to my Sister Ranescrofte one old Angell, and to my Cosen George his nephue one ffranche crowne. It'm I gise to my ladie Egerton one old Angell and a lyttle table, wherein ys livalie pay'ted the plecture of Christe crucified. It'm I give to my Cosen Dorothee Brareton one old Angell. It'm I give to my geod Cosen Elisabeth, wyfe to Mr. Thomas Egerton, Twentie Ewes wth there lambes to goe forwardes wth her, and tooe old Angells. It'm I gise to my sister savell one gold ringe wth a greate stooone, w^{ch} I had of my mother, and one lyttle Cipres Cofer and one old Edward of xvs., praying her To bee good to my wyfe and my small chylidren. It'm I geeve to my sister Ridgley one of my best mares, and one ould aungell, desyeringe her to pray for mee. And my mynde and will is that hee or they that shall have the disposition of my landes shall content and pay yerely to her fortie shillings duringe her n'rall liife towards her exhib'ion. It'm I geeue to my nephew Wilbram my sorrell colte, wth saddle and all furniture thereto belonginge, And to his Wife I geeue one ould angell. It'm I geeue to S'r Richard Egerton one ould aungell, And to my cosin Egerton his sonne and haire one of my browches. It'm Whereas I have had my continuance at Ridley and at Woodhey, I doe gise amongst the serving men, equally to bee devided amongst them, xls., that is, xxs. to Ridley and xxs. to Woodhey. It'm I geeue to my cosin Roger Pulleston my best Careslette and one almayne

Bevett. Alsoe to my cosin Thomas Puleston his brother tenn Ewes to goe forward w'th him. And likewise to Anthonie Puleston my godsonne tenne Ewes. It'm I gine to my ladie Hollies one ringe of goulde w'th a pearle in yt. It'm I geue to my cosin Dorothis Bostooke three yards of tuft tafetie w'ch is in my closett, and one ould sungell. It'm I geue to my cosin Jane Puleston one ould Aungall. It'm I geue to my cosin Grace Massie my somm' nagg that I bought of the Curat of farna. It'm I bequeath to Edward Bowre my servant xxs. It'm to the p'son of Doddleston xxs. yearely, and the advowson of Doddleston p'sonage I geue and bequeth to my nephew Gravenor. It'm I gine to the p'sons wief xs., to m'gan Glegges wief xs., to Richard Howell vs., to Edmund Camberbage his wief xs. It'm I gine to the makings of the highway betwixt the howse and Gostelow xls. It'm I geue to M'ris Hope as I gave to my Cosin Grace Massie. It'm I geue and bequeath to my nephew Thomas Gravenor and to his heires all my purchased landes, if soe bee that I have noe heire male, soe that my Wief shall have yt duringe her life. And that my sayed Nephew shall pay to the marlage of eu'y one of my daughters one hundredth markes. It'm I bequeath to Raphe Darlington my servaunte xxs duringe his life. It'm I geue to John Cowley some of my ould apparell. It'm I geue to Parnell xijs. iiijd. that shee shalbee well married. It'm I geue to John Griffithes wief, of Barton, vjs. viijd. I commit the charge of my children to my sister Ladie Egerton and my sister Savell. It'm I geue to the poore to bee distributed amongst them at the day of my buriell viij. or more, to pray for mee. I will that my wief and my sister Savell shalbe myne executors, whom I make and ordayne to see this my last will and testam't p'formed. Witnesses, Julian Gravenor, and Robert Graye, Clarke.

Copia hu'moi concordat cu'
original' penes Reg'ru' remanen'
collationat ei lect' fuer' p' me,

JO: MORGELL,

No'm public'."

Mr. ANTONIE GROSVENOR, the testator, was fourth son of Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton Boat, esq. By Juliana, his wife, daughter of Sir Roger Puleston, of Emral, he had three daughters, Elizabeth, Amie (or Anne), and Frances, nominally his coheiresses; but his estates had apparently been settled on his male heir, subject to annuities to his children. His sister Mary, to whom he leaves his "lyttle table" or painting on panel, was married to Sir Richard Egerton, of Ridley. This is the knight whose illegitimate son by Alice Sparke, of Bickerton, was the "Mr. Thomas Egerton" named further on in the Will; and who afterwards became the celebrated Lord Chancellor of England, Viscount Brackley, and ancestor of the Dukes of Bridgewater.

The testator was evidently still a Catholic at heart; for he pointedly desires his sister Maud Ridgley to pray for him after his decease, and leaves £5 to the poor present at his funeral, in the hope that they may do

the like. He gives his "somm' nagg" to his cousin (really his niece) Grace Massie of Coddington; though how she and Mrs. Hope, to whom further on he makes the same bequest, were to settle the ownership is not so easy to be determined. His "purchased landes," including no doubt those named in the Document printed in last week's SHEAF, he leaves to the owner of the Eaton estates. "Parnell," perhaps a maid-servant, so "shee shalbee well married," is to be made passing rich on a bequest of "xijs. iiijd.,"—not a very large jointure to our modern eyes. His wife and, apparently, the Curate of Doddleston, are named as witnesses; and so ends a very curious document, from which it would be quite possible to draw up an extensive family pedigree, were the family of GROSVENOR not otherwise well provided with one under the authority of Herald's College.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[820] SCROPE AND GROSVENOR ROLL.

(Concluded from No. 813.)

I must now return to page 816 of the folio, which is headed by the evidence of John de Etoun. This witness is placed as the first on a fresh membrane at p. 267 of the 4to, with the note which I have already quoted giving the reason they here introduced them after Hugh de Hula. Then follow the depositions of 11 witnesses, who are placed in the same order in both vols. concluding with Vivian de Faxwist at p. 322 of the folio and p. 278 of the 4to; after whose evidence reference is made in the 4to to the following note:—

"As the membrane is perfect, the testimony of Vivian Faxwist must have been continued on another which unfortunately is lost. Other depositions, doubtless, were recorded on the missing membrane. The evidence of Vivian Faxwist, as well as several other deponents on the part of Grosvenor, is entirely omitted in the copy of the Roll belonging to Lord Grosvenor."

In the folio a reference is made near the end of this witness' evidence thus: [Vid. note 4, p. 361.]

From this note we learn that all the proceedings referred to in this note are lost, excepting the depositions of the 12 persons contained in pp. 316-322. Accordingly the depositions printed in the folio terminate with what is there given of the evidence of Faxwist.

I have now completed the collation of the two vols. It is probable that the "notes" which I have quoted from the 4to will be found re-stated in substance in Sir Harris Nicolas' edition; but as only a few possess that rare work, the quotation of them here in their original form may be welcomed by those who, like myself, only possess the single vol. comprising the Record.

The collation in the result does not seem to me to furnish adequate reason for "cancelling" all these pages. Where the order of witnesses is changed and the asterisks marking the different membranes are abandoned, a necessity for a cancel might have arisen; but where blanks only had to be filled up and names supplied, no fresh composition of the type would be needed, unless indeed the blanks left were too small to receive the subsequent additions. On looking over, however, the first 48 pages where the blanks occur in the 4to, and comparing them with the complete lines in the folio, the blanks seem just sufficient to take in what was afterwards inserted in them. I must, however, confess myself to be but little versed in the mysteries of press correction. The Scrope evidence begins on page 49 of the folio, and I infer from the notes at p. 359 et seq. of that vol. that the Harleian MS. did not throw much light on that part of the Roll. The Scrope witnesses are all carefully numbered, and I do not observe any reference made in their evidence to any of the notes at the end of the vol. I therefore conclude their evidence, as it stands in the folio, and the order in which they came, and the places where the Commissioners sat to examine them, must have been printed from the Tower Record. If so there would, of course, be no necessity for cancelling any pages containing their evidence; and this may account for the "cancelled leaves" terminating at p. 48, while the question remains, why were the 48 pages cancelled? Sir C. G. Young must have attached some value to them, or he would not have so carefully preserved them; and they certainly comprise some interesting notes, and furnish us with some insight into the progress of Sir Henry Nicolas' vols. through the press.

W. W. Fr.

[821] EPITAPH AT INCE.

The reporter of the meeting of the FRODSHAM NATURALISTS' SOCIETY at INCE, in the *Courant* of Aug. 27, does not seem to be aware that the Blacksmith's Epitaph is pretty well known elsewhere, as well as over the grave of James Bell, where he copied it. A correspondent of the "Bye-gones" column of the *Oswestry Advertiser*, in March, 1877, stated that it was originally placed over the grave of one Sam Kershaw, a blacksmith who was buried in Roohdals Churchyard, and that the lines were the composition of "Tim Bobbin." Either the stone-cutter, the reporter, or the printer, has departed from the original in the version from Ince:—Instead of "And in the dust my wife is layd;" it should read "And in the dust my vice is laid." This adds a point to the epigram.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

On receipt of A. R.'s communication, we wrote to the Rev. C. S. Upperton, Vicar of Ince, requesting him kindly to examine the original inscription, and to collate it with the copy supplied by the reporter. The

Vicar has very politely sent us, as below, a verbatim copy of the words as they appear upon the stone:—

James Bell of Ince
Died October the 7th,
1796, aged 68.
my sledge and hammer
lies declined, my bellows
too have lost their wind,
my Fire's extinct my forge
decayed and in the dust
my vise is layd, my cole
is spent my iron is gone,
the nail is driven,
my work is done.

The Vicar's more careful reading restores to the INCE epigram the point A. R. referred to as missing.

EDITOR.

[822] EARLY CHESHIRE STATUTES.

The following early Statutes, &c., relating to "Chester and Chesheshire" are referred to in Rastall's *Statutes*:—

1. An. 51 H. 3.—Justices of Chester shall make account in the Eschequer (p. 139)
2. An. 21 E. 2 c. 9.—it was enacted that the County of Chester should be a principality and be to ye prince. And divers lands assigned thereunto, and ye liberties confirmed. But this parliament was repealed by 1. H. 4. c. 8 (p. 56)
3. An. 1 H. 4. c. 18.—Enactment relative to murder, felony, &c., in the County of Chester (p. 56)
4. An. 8 H. 6. c. 4.—Giving of liveries in the countie of Chester (p. 251)
5. An. 8 H. 6. c. 10.—Indictments in the Countie of Chester (p. 336)
6. An. 1 H. 8. c. 8.—Eschetours in the Countie of Chester (p. 144)
7. An. 23 H. 8. c. 5.—Commissioners of Sewers awarded unto the Countie of Chester (p. 408)
8. An. 27 H. 8. c. 5.—Chauncelour (Lord C. of E) shall appoynt Justices of Peace &c in the Countie of Chester (p. 56)
9. ? Relative to Sessions being held in the county of Chester
10. An. 38 H. 8. c. 31.—An acte is made, disaveeringe the Bishopricke of Chester, and the Bishopricke of Man from the jurisdiction of Canterbury, to the jurisdiction of Yorke (p. 50)
11. An. 33 H. 8. c. 13.—Sheriffes of Chester shall keepe his shire courte in the shire hall (p. 57)
12. An. 33 H. 8. c. 15.—The King by his proclamation shall determine the sanctuarie in Chester (p. 395)
13. An. 34 H. 8. c. 13.—Wages for Knights and Burgesses of the Parliament in the Countie of Chester. (p. 57)

14. An. 37 H. 8. c. 3.—An Act for ye amending of ye high waies besides Chester called Huntington lane (p. 199)
15. An. 1 E. 6. c. 10.—Proclamation awarded in the Countie of Chest'.
16. An. 2 E. 6. c. 28.—Fines acknowledged in the Countie of Chester (p. 166)
17. An. 2 E. 6. c. 31.—An acte is made for the recognisances before the Maior of Chester (p. 58)
18. An. 3 E. 6. c. 25.—An acte is made concerning Chester for weres in the ryver of Dee (p. 58)
19. An. 5 E. 6. c. 6.—Cottons made in Cheshire (p. 126)
20. An. 4 & 5 P. & M. c. 2.—Inhabitants of Chester may keepe long bowes instead of haquebuts (p. 23)
21. An. 4 & 5 P. & M. c. 7.—Tales in the Countie of Chester (p. 228)
22. An. 5 E. c. 23.—Mittimus shall be sent into the Countie of Chest'.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

Queries.

[823]

ERBISTOCK.

This village and fishing station on the Dee near Bangor Iscoed is a favourite haunt of the disciples of Master Walton, and there are perhaps few spots on the river that surpass it in natural beauty. But has any information come down to us as to the origin of the name, which has all the appearance of very remote antiquity?

A WOODMAN.

[824]

THE ISLE OF CHESTER.

Was the "rare old city" ever an island? I know it was so in one sense, when it was artificially girt in by a fosse stretching from south to north and from north to west, uniting with the river at each of the two extremities. But that would scarcely entitle it to bear the name of the Isle of Chester, by which it is said to have been referred to in some ancient chronicle.

Stockport.

MARY O. LATRY.

[825]

WILLIAM INCE, ALDERMAN.

In ORMEROD's *Cheshire*, (Halsby's ed.) Vol. I. p. 328, in the notice of HOLY TRINITY, CHESTER, is given an inscription on a monument formerly situated "on the south side of altar."

"At ye foot of this pillar, on ye chancill side is interred ye body of WILLIAM INCE, late alderman and justice of the peace of the citey, was maior an'o 1642 and an'o 1662, he was one of the burgesees in parliament for this citey, he died ye 27 of January a'o 1678, had issue only by his second wife,

Annie daughter of THOMAS THROPP alderman and justice of peace. She was interred in ye same, an'o 1644. Two sons survived their father, William the eldest and Robert the fourth. William Ince, alderman and justice of

peace of this citey, was maior an'o 1677."

"Arms—argent, three torteauxes between two bendlets sable, Ince, impating chequy, argent and sable, on a fesse or three markets sable, Thropp.—Crest. A tree fruited or."

HEMINGWAY, I. 97. describing the same, omits the first year of mayoralty, only stating "was maior an'o 1662."

The list of Representatives in Parliament states that the following citizens were Members for Chester in

12 Car II. { John Radclyffe, recorder
William Ince, esq.

In the printed List of Mayors, I only find WILLIAM INCE named in 1642, Richard Broster being named as filling the civic chair in 1662.

On visiting Trinity Church the other day, for the purpose of comparing these different accounts, I was sorry to find the memorial had disappeared, having been taken down at the time of the demolition of the old fabric, and never been replaced in any portion of the present structure; unfortunately this is not the only one that suffered at the same time from the like cause.

Which, if any, of the three statements can be taken as correct,—Ormerod, Hemingway, or the List of Mayors? Also, what has become of the monument which marked the history of departed civic and parliamentary honours in the person of WILLIAM INCE?

Ledsham.

R. M.

Replies.

[826]

MAYSHAM'S TOWER, CHESTER.

[No. 724.—July 2]

This Tower, about which "H.S.A." is desirous of some information, was in the Castle of Chester, as the following abstract of a Document formerly among the muniments preserved there, but now in the custody of the Master of the Rolls at the Public Record Office, will very satisfactorily prove:—

"1441-2. Jan. 20. Letters Patent from King Henry VI to Henry Herleton, ratifying his appointment by William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk and Justice of Chester, as his clerk for life, in consideration of his having served in the retinue of the said Earl in the King's wars in France, without fee or reward: the said Henry to hold the office together with the custody of the rolls and chamber and lower Exchequer within the shire-hall at Chester, and the tower called "MAYSHAM'S TOWER" within the Castle of Chester, of old appointed for the custody of the said rolls."

Supplementary to this, the following paragraph from William Webb's description of the Castle late in Elizabeth's reign is worth quoting:—

"Next unto the south end of the said shire-hall is a less, but fair neat and convenient Hall, where is continually holden the Princess Highness most Honourable Court of Exchequer, with other Rooms, fully appendant thereunto, for keeping of the Records of that Court. Within the Precincts of which Castle is also the King's Prison for the County of Chester, with the Office of the Prothonotary."

Comparing these two accounts with the facsimile of a Plan of Chester Castle made about the same period, and preserved in Harl. MS. 2073, as given by Lysons, it seems pretty clear that MAYSHAM'S TOWER was situated in the lower ward and close to the Exchequer Hall. It was very likely the projecting room or tower over the entrance to Hugh Lupus's Hall; access to which, as we see by an engraving in Lysons' *Cheshire* was by an open flight of steps at the angle of junction between the two great Halls, and convenient to both. There the county records were preserved in more or less order until the old court-halls were taken down in or shortly after 1790, when new quarters were found for the documents adjoining the new Shire Hall, until their final removal to London in 1851.

G. T.

[827] THE HOLY BOOD, HAWARDEN.

(No. 766.—July 30.)

The particulars quoted by "H. L. P." are taken almost entirely from Willett's *Memoir of Hawarden Parish*, 8vo., 1822; but whence the author obtained his authority for the "Saxon manuscript" theory is more than we can tell. It is to be hoped it rests on a more reliable basis than the line italicised by "H. L. P.," that the name of Dee was first given to our venerated river at that precise date; and that before the incident referred to "it was called the River Usk!" This is manifestly a blunder, through confounding our northern CAERLEON with a Roman town of the same name in Monmouthshire—CAERLEON on the River Usk.

EDITOR.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Sept. 24.—Royalist forces defeated at Rowton Moor.....	1645
" 25.—Musical Festival at Chester	1821
" 26.—Dee Mills at Chester destroyed by fire	1789
" 27.—King Charles I.'s Declaration issued from Chester on the Parliament's refusal to treat for Peace.....	1643

Sept. 23.—Public Meeting in Chester Exchange about a New Bridge over the Dee...	1818
" 29.—Roundheads' fruitless attack on Chester Walls at the Newgate	1645
" 30.—St. Oswald's Church, Chester, first lighted with gas.....	1855

J. H.

Original Documents.

[828] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS.

No. XI.

MUSTER AT MIDDLEWICH, &c.

Following up the Documents printed at No. 734 of THE SHEAF, we print to-day three papers further illustrative of the work the Privy Council had out out for the noble Lord Lieutenant and his active Cheshire Deputies. The first is entitled

"The accountt of S'r Philip Egerton, K't, for the fines w'ch were Imposed vpon sen'all Gent' for there Defaults and Neglects at the last Muster at Middlewich, the 14th day of July last past, by the Deputy Lievetenants of the Countie, Gathered by Corporall Cumberbach and Corp'all Cooper.

	li. s. d.
Rec'd from Mr. John Davies of Ashton, &c.	5 0 0
" from the Prebends of Chester.....	4 10 0
" from my Lord Cholmondely's man...	3 0 0
" from Mr. Lea of Darnall, &c.	3 0 0
" from my L'd Bridgman, his p't	1 10 0
" from my Lady Talbott	1 0 0
" from Mr. Hurleston of Piston.....	1 0 0
" from Mr. Leech, &c.	1 0 0
" from Mr. Wettenhall, &c.....	1 0 0
" from Mr. Dutton of Hatton, &c.....	1 0 0
" from the heires of Charles Walley...	3 0 0

Rec'd..... 25 0 0

Paid and Disbur' as followeth.

Paid for one Months Grasse for one of the Prebends horses w'ch was distrain'd and sold	0 12 0
Laid forth about S'r Robert Cotton's distraine	0 8 0
for the 2 Corp'ls themselves and horses, 20'tie dayes a peece about gathering this money in, at 3s. 6d. p' diem a peece.....	7 0 0
Disbur'.....	8 0 0

Rec'd as appears	25 0 0
Disbur' and p'd	5 0 0
rem't to be paid to Mr. Cholmondeley	17 0 0

The Names of such Gent' whose fines are not gathered:—

The Lady Calveley	5 0 0
S'r Thomas Grosvenor	5 0 0
from the Prebends of Chester, gathered too short	0 10 0
Mr. Ran: Dod and Mr. Leach, &c.	3 0 0
Mr. Sparstowe's part	1 10 0
S'r Robert Cotton	1 0 0

Novemb'r the 17th, 1666.

Rec'd then by mee Tho: Cholmondeley of Vale royall, Esq'r., one of the Treasurers of the Militia for the County of Chester, of and from S'r Philip Egerton, K't, the sum of Seventeen pounds, being fine moneys from the afores'd Gent' for their Defaults and Neglects. I say rec'd the said Sum's of

f me

THO: CHOLMONDELEY."

There is almost a touch of satire in the reference made in the account to the **PREBENDS** of Chester. It appears the church militant didn't promptly pay the fine imposed, so had to be distrained upon. The Prebend's horse was seized and sold, but only £4 10s. could be got for the poor beast; and he cost 12s. out of that even for a month's keep at grass, before he could be sold at all! 10s. of the fine moreover remained uncollected at the passing of the account. Later on in the reign, the Dean and Chapter had bared their backs to the burden, and kept their own horse and armed trooper to attend those periodical Musters.

Next in order comes a Letter to Sir Philip Egerton from his son-in-law (P), Lord Cholmondeley, enclosing copy of one from King Charles II. and Lord Derby, both of which are missing from the Oulton series. Lord Cholmondeley's Letter runs thus:—

"Good father,

I have inclosed sent you the Copy of the King's letter, as alsoe my Lord of Derbyes, both which I receaved from him this evening; which I pray you Communicate to some of the Deputy Liveten'ts in those parts, with a desire that it may goe from hand to hand till all have notice. I have given S'r Robert Cotton notice, who will transfer the same to S'r George. And that this service may not bee retarded, I have thought it convenient to appoynt tuesday come seavenight for our gen'all meetings at NORTHWICH, which you must alsoe intimate to them.

And soe remayne, S'r

Yo'r most obedient sonne

Chomley, 1 Dec'r, E: CHOLMONDELEY
'66.

for my much esteemed friend
S'r Phillip Egerton at his
house at Oulton,
these."

Following quick upon this came the following Letter from the Lord Livetenant to Lord Cholmondeley enclosing copy of one from his Majesty, which letter has not survived—

"Knowenly, 3 Dec'r 1666.

My Lord, & Gentlemen.

Since my Last to you dated the 30th of the Last Month, I have receaved another letter from his Majesty, the copie whereof I here send you. It is a letter grounded see much upon the sense and apprehensions of the whole Kingdome, & issued out at the humble request of the two houses of Parliament that I cannot otherwise behave but you will be very serious and careful in putting in execution his Majesty's Commands: I doe expect to heare from you what you doe therein, because you see it is expected from me that I give an account to the King what is therein done. I shall continue in assuring you I am,

My Lord, and Gentlemen

Yr affe friend and servant

FRANCIS.

Be pleased make choice wch of
you shall keepe the Arms,
and pray give notice of it.

For the right Hon'ble the
Lord Cholmondeley, and
the rest of my Deputy
Lieutenants of Chester.

these."

FRANCIS.

NOTES.

[829] TRAVELLING IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

Two centuries since the ideas which prevailed as to the question of easy travelling from place to place, and of facilitating it in every way, appear to have been sometimes at total variance with our modern opinions and practice. The 8th vol. of the *Hartian Miscellany* contains, at p. 13, an article entitled "The Grand Concern of England Explained," and which is a reprint of a pamphlet published in 1673. Amongst other projects mentioned in it is one "For suppressing the multitude of Stage Coaches and Caravans." As it contains some interesting notes respecting travelling in the 17th century, I venture to make a few excerpts for THE SHEAF, more especially those containing any local reference:—

"Formerly every man that had occasion to travel many journeys yearly, or to ride up and down, kept horses for himself and servants, and seldom rid without one or two men; but now, since every man can have a passage into every place he is to travel unto . . . they have left keeping of horses, and travel without servants; and

York, Chester, and Exeter stage-coaches, each of them with forty horses a-piece, carry eighteen passengers a week from London to either of these places.

These coaches and caravans hinder the consumption of all sorts of provisions for man and beast, thereby bringing down the rents of lands. * * * Passengers, when they come to their inn, club together for a dish or two of meat, and, having no servants with them spend not above twelve-pence or sixteen-pence a-piece at a place; yet, perhaps use four, five, or six pair of sheets. * * The coachmen agree with the innkeeper beforehand to have their hay and oats at so low a rate that he loseth by them. * * yet must let the coachman have them for what he pleaseth, otherwise he carries his passengers to other inns. * * Upon such accounts as these, innholders, where these coaches do come, are undone.

From London to Exeter, Chester, or York, you pay forty shillings a-piece in summer time, forty-five shillings in winter, for your passage; and as much from those places back to London; besides, in the journey they change coachmen four times; and there are few passengers but give twelve-pence to each coachman at the end of his stage, which comes to eight shillings in the journey backward and forward; and at least three shillings comes to each passenger's share to pay for the coachman's drink on the road: so that in summer-time the passage backward and forward to any of these places costs four pounds eleven shillings, in the winter five pounds one shilling, and this only for eight days' riding in the summer, and twelve in the winter. If a man coming from York, Exeter, or Chester, to London, be five days coming, five days going, and stay twelve days in London to despatch his business (which is the most that country chapmen usually do stay), all this would be but three weeks. * * Men do not travel in these coaches with less expense of money or time than on horseback; for on horseback they may travel faster; and if they please, all things duly considered, with as little, if not less charges."

The whole article appears to be a lament on the employment of Stage Coaches, and the comparative disuse of travelling on horseback, and which the writer would remedy by suppressing the former.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood, Surrey.

[830] SALISBURY THE CONSPIRATOR.

I notice in your "Weekly Diary," a record, that SALISBURY the Conspirator was apprehended on the 13th of August, 1585, by Mr. Joseph Poole. He was THOMAS SALISBURY, great great grandson of Thomas Salusbury *Æn* of Lleweni, who has been already mentioned in THE SHEAF, as at one time connected with Hawarden. His descent is thus made out:—

Thomas Salusbury (*Æn*) was succeeded at Lleweni by his eldest son Thomas Salusbury, who married Janet, a daughter of Penrhyn in Carnarvonshire; and their eldest son Roger (who died in 1550) married Elizabeth Puleston of Bersham; their eldest son John Salusbury married Jane Middleton of Chester; and their eldest son John (who pre-deceased his father) married Catherine Tudor, daughter and heiress of Tudor ap Vyohan of Bersain, and by her had Thomas Salusbury the "Conspirator."

His mother derived from Henry Tudor (afterwards Henry the Seventh), and was thus connected by blood with Queen Elizabeth, in whose Court she had been brought up. Her son in like manner had been a page in the Queen's household, and served under Thomas Howard the fourth Duke of Norfolk, who is supposed to have formed a project of marrying Mary Queen of Scots. Young Salusbury got mixed up with the affairs of the Scottish Queen, and became a Papist; and thus he was dragged into Babington's conspiracy, and became acquainted with the intention to murder Elizabeth. Stennet and other writers tell us how he fled to Denbighshire, and thence to Cheshire, and it was at Frodsham he was caught by Poole, and then handed over to justice. He was tried and convicted of the minor offence of being privy to the intended murder, and on the 21st of September, 1586, he was executed. When on the scaffold he said "Since it hath pleased God to appoint this place for my end, I thank his infinite goodness for the same. I confess that I have deserved death; and that I have offended her Majesty, whom to forgive me I heartily beseech, with all others whom I have in any way offended. I desire all true Catholics to pray for me; and I desire them, as I beseech God they may, to endure with patience whatsoever shall be laid upon them, and never to enter into any action of violence for remedy."

He had married Margaret Wynne of Gwydir, and left, at his death, a daughter Margaret who afterwards married Edward Norreys, of Speke, near Liverpool; and from them derived Mary Norreys who married Lord Sydney Beauclerk, son of the first Duke of St. Alban's. Their grandson Charles George Beauclerk sold Speke to Richard Watt, ancestor of the young lady who is now heiress to the property. The Entwistles of Foxholes in Lancashire derive through the Norreys' from Mr. Salusbury.

The Lleweni and Bersain estates upon his execution passed to his brother John Salusbury, who married a daughter of the Earl of Derby; and they then passed in succession down to Hester Salusbury, who married Sir Robert Cotton of Combermere, and afterwards to the Cottons, till they were sold by Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton (father of the late Lord Combermere) to the Fitzmaurice family.

GLADWYN.

Queries.

[831] NIELD'S ORCHARD, CHESHIRE.

I am told there is or was a cemetery bearing this name somewhere in this county. I should like much not only to ascertain its locality, but also to learn something of its history, and whether it be still appropriated to the burial of the dead?

L. L.

[832] CHURCHYARD CROSSES.

These interesting monuments of the olden time are, I fancy, not very numerous around Chester. Are other churchyards in the county more fortunate in retaining their Cross? Particulars of any of these that may have survived would be acceptable.

J. H.

[833] JUDGE JEFFRIES.

It might interest many of your readers to learn somewhat of the early history of our local Courts of Justice, especially during the stirring times connected with the Stuarts. I fancy a chapter taken from the time when JEFFRIES was Chief Justice of Chester would form a somewhat strong contrast to the present dignified form of legal procedure.

In a paper by Mr. BEAMONT of Warrington, published in the *Chester Archaeological Journal*, he speaks of Mr. Jeffries of Acton, near Wrexham, as the father of two judges. Can any of your readers say what was the name of the brother of Judge Jeffries who was clothed with judicial functions? It is said that the notorious GEORGE was the sixth son. Can any one of your correspondents name the other members of the family, and say what was their status and history?

Newton.

T. D.-O.

Replies.

[834] PRECENTORS OF CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

[No. 758.—July 30.]

"L. L.," in asking for a List of the Precentors of Chester since the date of the Reformation, is probably unaware of the labour and time it would involve to specially compile such a chronological list from the numerous and varied documents preserved by the DEAN AND CHAPTER. It so happens however that having personally, some 10 years ago, gone systematically through and arranged the entire series of these records (a task occupying many months' persistent hard work), and having while so engaged made perfect lists of the Minor Officers of the Cathedral Body from 1541 to the present time, I am enabled to gratify L. L.'s wish.

The TREASURERS' ACCOUNTS, from which my List is compiled, being a mass of detached Annual Statements, are naturally, remembering the long period they cover (338 years), not perfectly consecutive; but I question very much if a single Precentor's name be omitted from the Record now for the first time printed. I am unaware that any of the Chester Precentors were men of pronounced ability as Musicians: they were of course under the Statutes, and by virtue of their office, Minor Canons of the Cathedral.

- "1541. Draper S'r William.
- 1544. Gynson S'r John.
- 1567. Mayre S'r John.
- 1582. Miller James.
- 1619. Callegne Robert.
- 1623. Pilkington Francis.
- 1639. Johnes (or Jones) Charles.
- 1660. Smith John.
- 1664. Stringer Peter.
- 1673. Ottye William.
- 1718. Dockerill John.
- 1730. Stones John.
- 1735. Tey Robert.
- 1742. Whiston Robert.
- 1753. Henchman Charles.
- 1780. Johnson Jonathan.
- 1803. Eaton Joseph.
- 1850. Thurland Francis E.
- 1859. Venables Henry.
- 1866. Deacle Edward L. Y.
- 1877. Stewart Charles Hylton.

T. HUGHES.

[835] BLACK-WORK IN CHESTER.

[No. 776.—Aug. 13.]

I fancy if "A. B." would enquire from any long-established undertaker in Oswestry, or if the question were put to similar tradesmen in Chester, it would be found that the term he quotes is even now not unknown to the trade. I had occasion to visit a livery stable keeper in Chester the other day, and, while waiting at the saddle-room door to see him, heard the following question and answer called out in the stable-yard:—"What's Jones' cab here for, doing nothing, when it ought to be on the stand?" "Oh, he's doing *black-work* to-day; don't you know they're burying poor old Roberts?" This incidental reference to the term may be worth recording in your storehouse of local curiosities.

M. O. Y.

[836] CHESHIRE ALE.

[No. 778.—Aug 13.]

Ale is to the bibulous Englishman at large what wine used to be to the aristocrat, ere yet the inky mixture known as Gladstone's claret found a place at the dinner table. Roman and Greek had each a common weakness for the flavour of malt and hops, as much as for the juice of the luscious grape.

The *Domesday Book of Cheshire* shows us how the Norman magistrates at CHESTER were down upon the brewers of unwholesome ale; and the CORPORATION ASSEMBLY BOOKS early and late are eloquent in their denunciation of those members of "the trade" who didn't give both quantity and quality to their citizen clients. Randle Minshull, a seventeenth century innholder at Chester, wrote and published a small work in "Praise of Ale;" and I have little doubt the stuff he brewed was a popular article enough in his time, for his inn, we read, was a well-frequented house.

It would seem, however, that, in Elizabeth's and James I.'s days, SANDBACH was renowned for its ale: at all events, it appealed rather keenly to the palate of Master WILLIAM WEBB, one of the authors of the *Tale Royall*, who, while in the clerkly service of Sir Richard Wilbraham, probably paid many visits to that "very delightful" little town. He says:—

"Mr. Camden, in his description of Derby, took occasion to delight his readers with a discourse of the nappy Ale of Darby. Let me have a little leave to touch upon this subject: Our Ale here at Sandbach being no lesse famous then that for a true nappe. And I have heard men of deep experience in that element contend for the worth of it that, for true dagger stuffe, it should give place to none: and if that Ale got name from Oel, as he saith, the old Danish word, I know not why this may not almost with as little variation come from Oil, being almost as substantial in the handling as oyl is, and justifies that old report of the merry poet

nil epissius illa

*Dum bibitur, nil clarius est dum mingitur: ergo
Constat eam multum terrena facies habere."*

Evidently Master Webb's taste was for ale of a substantial thickness; and the zest with which he writes of it shews that he was not an unwilling worshipper at the shrine of mine host at SANDBACH, and that its ale did not compare unfavourably with the more aristocratic brew at WOODHEY. T. HUGHES.

[837] THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

[No. 811.—Sept. 19.]

Utright Dod, mentioned in the list of men at arms by your correspondent "G. T.," in your last SHEAF, was undoubtedly a Cheshire man. He occurs in the will of his father, Thomas Dod of Hegge, dated 4 Hen. VI., and proved the following year.

In the *Archæological Journal* of September, 1851, p. 273, it is said that amongst the knights and squires on the roll of Humphrey, duke of Buckingham, in 1448, are members of several distinguished families, the largest portion of whom were of Cheshire blood, viz.:—

Mainwaring	Venables
Hanford	Grosvenor
Egerton	and
Davenport	Donne (Done)

Can any of your correspondents account for this, or tell where the roll is which is referred to?

Warrington.

W. B.

OCTOBER 1, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- | | |
|--|------|
| October 1.—First stone of the Grosvenor Bridge, Chester, laid by Earl Grosvenor... | 1827 |
| " 2.—Thomas Moreton, Bishop of Chester, made his first public entry into the city | 1616 |
| " 3.—Aaron Gee and Thomas Gibson hung 'from the drag' on the South side of the Northgate Gaol, Chester ... | 1801 |
| " 4.—Chester illuminated in honour of Nelson's Victory of the Nile | 1793 |
| " 5.—Chester Volunteers reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester and Prince William, his son | 1804 |
| " 6.—Dean Arderne suspended by Bishop Cartwright | 1687 |
| " 7.—Bowyer Edward Sparke, D.D., nominated Bishop of Chester | 1809 |
- J. H.

Original Documents.

[838] THE REVEREND PHILIP HENRY.

This estimable but ill-used divine, who was for many years Minister of WORTHENBURY, co. Flint, was born in 1631. While quite a young man at Oxford University, viz., in 1653, he was prevailed upon by the lady of JUDGE PULESTON of Emlal to come down to Flintshire, reside in her family, and superintend the education of her sons. He undertook, although not regularly ordained, to officiate once every Sunday in the chapel of Worthenbury, where his labours were appreciated and very successful. Judge Puleston was so well satisfied with his preaching-tutor that, in October, 1655, he surrendered his rights in the tithe of Worthenbury, and out of his own pocket made up and settled 100£ per annum for ever on the Minister there, on condition that Mr. HENRY would at once seek ordination and accept the living. In augmentation of this the Judge, at his own expense, built "a very handsome" parsonage house in Worthenbury for the use of his protégé and his successors in the cure.

In 1657, the house being now ready, Mr. HENRY was by Judge Puleston nominated and presented to the church, in what was then due form; but Mr. ROBERT FOGG, at that time Rector of Bangor, to which Worthenbury had been aforesaid subordinate, raised an objection to the nomination without his consent being first sought. Mr. Henry at once threw down the olive branch in the following memorial, a copy of

which in the young parson's own hand is in the possession of Dr. Davies-Colley, of Newton, near Chester, who has kindly placed it, with other papers relating to Worthenbury, in our hands for publication. Mr. HENRY's application runs thus:—

"Whereas the People of WORTHENBURY in the County of Flint have desired mee, PHILIP HENRY, to bee their Minister, I doe desire the Consent of Mr. FOGG, Rector of BANGOR, that I may bee ordayned thereunto.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of September, Anno 1657.

P. H."

To this memorial Mr. Fogg (whose son Lawrence afterwards became Dean of Chester), returned the following formal certificate of approval:—

"I am contented that MR. PHILIP HENRY doe officiate in the Chappell of WORTHENBURY, and doe humbly beg a blessing of God upon his labours and endeavours there. In witness whereof, &c.

R. F."

Two days afterwards, viz., August 16, 1657, Mr. HENRY was ordained at Pree, Salop, and returned to his village home; where he continued in the full confidence and friendship of the older members of the Puleston family, until the death of Lady Puleston on Michaelmas Day, 1658, and the Judge's own death in September, 1659. From the latter date his position at Worthenbury gradually became insecure, the new blood of the Pulestons being of a somewhat different stamp from the old; and about the same time the Quakers of the district were apparently set on to give him some trouble.

The Vicarage of WREXHAM was just then offered to him; but he preferred to remain, if he only might, in his own little cabin near the banks of the Dee. In April, 1660, he married Katherine, daughter and sole heir to Mr. Daniel Matthews, of Broad-oak in Iscoyd, near Worthenbury; and thus that property fell in time to his eldest son, MATTHEW HENRY the Commentator, and his descendants.

Soon after this, his ministerial troubles came thick upon him, for the Restoration of Charles II. was now giving another turn to the political wheel. Dr. HENRY BRIDGEMAN, with the change of Government, recovered possession of the Rectory of Bangor from Mr. Fogg; and having few sentiments in common with Mr. HENRY, he probably influenced the willing mind of his patron, Mr. Puleston, against him. Poor Mr. Henry was presented for not reading the Book of Common Prayer, not as yet made compulsory by law; his living was declared to be nothing more than a curacy under Bangor; the annuity from Emral was withdrawn, and other unkindnesses shewn him by the family there. The difference between him and his patron not diminishing, he in the following note proposed to refer the whole matter to arbitration:—

"June 1, 1661. To Mr. Puleston.

Sir, if it please you to accept of the motion, I am willing and doe desire, before the Differences betw' us grow greater, and the wound wider then yet it is, to referr it to two Indifferent unconcerned p'sons, who may compose and compromise it, Or else my self to give you the meeting when and where you shall appoint this next week: hoping it may yet prove no very difficult matter (if meanes bee used for it) to revive a right underst: between us, for truly, Sir, whatever you may think of mee, I know mys' to bee

An unfayned well-wisher to your
Person and Family,

P. H.

refer'd to Sir Thomas Hanmer,
and My father in law, Mr.
Dan. Mathewes."

Mr. RATCLIFFE, Recorder of Chester, to whom Mr. Henry had submitted his case, had advised him to commence an action against Mr. Puleston for the assertion of his rights, but the above letter was tendered instead as a peace offering. It was agreed to refer it to the two parties named, and the following Memorandum, the joint compilation probably of Mr. Ratcliffe and his client, and in the latter's neat autograph, was to be the basis of settlement from Mr. Henry's point of view:—

"1. I desire, the true end and Intent of the meeting may bee stated, and that S'r Thos: Hanmer may declare what power hee hath from Mr. Puleston to conclude and determine.

2. I Desire, before any Proposal be made concerning the Future, that wee may bee at a Poynt concerning the Arrears already Due. This to be insisted on.

3. For the Arrears, there is 100*li*. due this Midsummer, which,—1. I desire may bee payd intire, the rather because Mr. Puleston had the whole Corn-Tith the last year. 2. If it bee urg'd hee payd 20*li*. to Dr. Bridgman (the Judge payd 20*li* p' ann. to Mr. Fogg, while ye 100 was p'd to mee), I answ'r hee might have chosen;—however I shall yeeld to abate the Half thereof, nay the whole, if ye Half bee not accepted, so ye remaynder bee payd forthwith; And lower then this I cannot yeild.

4. This being concluded, for time to come, I would first know what proposal they would make. If for mee to quitt the place, whatever the terms bee, I cannot, I dare not, assent. If to give up the Deed, I would know, upon what consideration, and what Mayntenance I shall have instead of it. Here press the Validity & Equity of the Deed; my leaving the Colledge for it, &c. Propose, what if Mr. Puleston, paying this Hundred pounds, enjoy the Corn-Tith, as formerly, the Reversion should bee secur'd to the Church when the Annuity expires."

In a future article, we shall carry on this unfortunate dispute, by means of the remaining papers in the hands of Dr. Davies-Colley, to the closing scene of the wretched drama.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[839] CHESTER DESCRIBED BY A TOURIST.

In a small volume entitled "The Ten Day's Tourist; or Sniffs of the Mountain Breese," by William Bigg, of Luton, Bedfordshire; London: A. W. Bennett, 1865,—is the following original and pleasant description of Chester. The book referred to is a small one, and, I fancy, very little known to local collectors:—

"This, perhaps the most ancient city in the Kingdom, is in some of its features quite unique. The old wall of defence remains nearly perfect; and a pleasant walk of two or three yards wide on the top of it leads you from the centre of one of the principal streets round among housetops, through gardens and orchards, whose pear trees throw up their fruit-laden branches to a level with the parapet: along the precipitous bank of the river [canal] moat, past an ancient look-out tower, now used as an observatory, at a point commanding a wide view of town and country; and along by a fragment of an ancient fortification, converted into the museum of a scientific institute; till at length that beautiful amphitheatre of the Roodeye, the Chester race-course, stretches out into view, its magic circle bounded by a grand-stand of nature's own making. Beyond this there is the single-span stone bridge over the river Dee, a marvel of elegance, expansion, and symmetry. The special peculiarity of Chester is, however, the "Row." In the ancient streets intersecting the heart of the city, the foot-way for passengers runs through what was originally the ground-floor of the houses on each side of the road, the basement storey now fronting on to the carriage way beneath. The shops, under this singular arrangement, are set back into what, under ordinary circumstances, would have been the back parlour of the establishment; and the public walk along under the ceiling of the floor of the drawing room or best sleeping chamber above. Once landed in one of these Rows, the fair sex may do their shopping without parasol or umbrella, having a good house over-head, and at the same time an open look out over the public street, and an unrestricted circulation of fresh air. There are about Chester many old houses worth looking at for their quaint exterior, and curious history. The fish and vegetable market, as in every strange town, is also worth a peep. In the streets the Welsh costume of many of the country people reminds you that you are still in the near neighbourhood of Cambria; from whose lakes and mountains you will return with, I doubt not, fresh braced nerves and energies renewed to your professional engagements, prepared to fight with greater vigour and brighter cheerfulness the great battle of life."

There is a freshness and novelty about this chatty description of our old-world city that powerfully attracted my notice as I read it the other day for the

first time at the Capel Curig Hotel; so much so that I determined to copy it out in order to its insertion and preservation in THE SHEAF. G. T.

[840] THINGS I REMEMBER, No. 8.

THE CHESHIRE PALATINE COURT.

Amongst the by-gones we old folks are called in a sense to mourn, or at least to look back upon with feelings of interest, may be mentioned the PALATINE COURT of the county. Perhaps few readers of THE SHEAF quite realize the fact that, within the memory of sexagenarians, the Assize Courts were conducted by special Judges, not of the twelve who ruled at Westminster; and that our Nisi-Prius Court held a position equivalent to that of Westminster Hall itself.

CHESTER had its Chief Justice and Puisne Judge, who sat together, twice a year, to try prisoners as well as causes. I remember Chief Justice WARREN and Judge JERVIS (father of the Lord Chief Justice, and M.P. for Chester) presiding in our County Shire Hall. We had an Attorney General of our own in that day, Counsellor HILL, father of the present Rector of Waverton: the leading counsel I recollect were Sergt. CROSS (of local election petition renown), and Counsellor WILLIAMS (afterwards Sir John Williams, a Justice of the Queen's Bench, and a native of Bunbury, in this county). My memory of these two usually opposing counsel recalls the former as calm and judicial in his mien, with a constant reference to "his lordship,"—the latter as like Sergeant Buzfuz, who laid down the law with earnest solemnity and red face, as who should dare say him 'nay'!

Then there was Prothonotary JOHN LLOYD (grandfather of our present learned Recorder), very grave and circumstantial, careful above all things of the order and method of the Court. Then another I well remember was the Bailiff, Mr. George Topham, who as he sat in his official box looked the very impersonation of successful pugnacity.

Now, alas! all this is a thing of the past, having succumbed to an Act of the fourth George; and the County of Chester, though still called a Palatinate, retains only the bare name, without any of the peculiarities at one time appertaining to it.

Newton.

T. D.-C.

[841] GROSVENOR M.P.s FOR CHESTER.

The Sheriff (Mr. Robertson) has kindly lent me an old Chester volume, containing a good many notes in the hand-writing of Mr. John Garner, who was at one time mixed up with our local affairs. He evidently took a warm interest in the Grosvenor family, for he records the fact that the following members of "the family of Grosvenor have represented Chester in Parliament since the restoration of Charles the Second" down to 1774:—

"Thomas Grosvenor, 1678 and 1680.
Sir Thomas Grosvenor, 1685, 1688,
1689, 1695, 1698.
Sir Richard Grosvenor, 1714, 1722,
1727.
Sir Robert Grosvenor, 1734, 1741,
1747, 1754.
Thomas Grosvenor, 1768, 1774."

Parliaments
called in these
years evidently

That list I know is not perfect, but I send it to you as it is; in the hope that some local scribe will correct it, and carry it down to 1874, when Mr. Norman Grosvenor retired from the representation of the City, and so closed the *lineal line* of Grosvenor M.P.s for Chester.

Mr. Garner adds in another place, "The Grosvenor family have been Mayors of the City of Chester as follows:—

"1684 Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart.
1715 Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart.
1737 Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart.
1759 Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart.
1760 Thomas Grosvenor, Esq."

And then, as if to crown the Grosvenor edifice, he adds:—

"[Sir] Robert Grosvenor was Sheriff of the County Palatine of Chester, 12 Richard II.
Sir Richard Grosvenor, Knt., was Sheriff of the County Palatine of Chester, 44 Elizabeth."

A CESTRIAN.

Queries.

[842] ROBERT LLOYD OF CHESTER, GENT.

A gentleman of this name and description married a daughter of Sir EDMUND VERNY, marshal and standard-bearer to King Charles I. Mr. and Mrs. LLOYD resided at Chester, and the lady was, I have reason to believe, buried in this city. Can any genealogical reader of THE SHEAF state to what family of LLOYD the above-named ROBERT belonged, and what arms he was entitled to bear? Are any lineal descendants of the marriage now in existence? L. L.

[843] CHELFORD CHAPEL, CHESHIRE.

When was the present church of CHELFORD consecrated? Did it replace an older structure; and, if so, what is known of that more ancient foundation; and is it possible to give the succession of its Curates or Incumbents? H. S. A.

[844] INSCRIBED STONE ON CHESTER CITY WALLS.

There is a stone let into the wall of your city, near the Water Tower, with the following inscription:—

"See Far Goeth
The Parish of
R. . . W.C.W."

Is this an ancient inscription, or a copy of some other? London. F. L. K.

Replies.

PARKGATE.

[No. 656.—May 14.]

[845]

I have seen the tenement to which "LUCY D. T." alludes, and which the ragged urohins on the shore at PARKGATE dignified in her hearing with the title of the *Castle*. It is situate at the extreme west of the strand of this one-street watering-place on the Dee; and if information I some years ago picked up be reliable, it was erected as a look-out station for the officer of Customs, at a time when Parkgate owned its own Custom House and staff of officials, eighty or ninety years ago. Gradually the customs work at this diminutive port slipped away to other scenes and new; until at length, and within living memory, the government officials were withdrawn, and the office closed,—the primitive little look-out station was also left without a tenant from the same cause.

Just about this period the vicissitudes and bodily ailments of SAMUEL W. RYLEY, author of *The Itinerant, or Memoirs of an Actor*,—a popular comedian of a former day, and a native of London,—brought him to PARKGATE in search of health and retirement from money troubles. Casting about for a spot on which to pitch his tent, for the faithful wife and mother-in-law who were his sole domestic comfort, his eye rested on the romantic little tenement to which I have referred. I will let the genial old actor tell us all about it in his own simple words:—

"The filial affection of Anne [his wife] had augmented our family by the addition of her mother; and the hurry and bustle of itinerancy being ill adapted for one whose age required quiet and repose, I took a small cottage at Parkgate, in Cheshire, at the annual rent of five pounds. Here I placed my mother-in-law; and here, thank God! she is at this moment.

My small residence stands on an eminence, the base of which is washed by the returning tides of the river Dee, perhaps 50 yards from my cottage door. The Welsh mountains on the opposite shore, six miles distant, form an amphitheatre extending north and south; and when the tide is in, it covers an expanse of at least twenty miles, and presents one of the finest views imagination can conceive, comprehending everything the artist requires to constitute the sublime and beautiful.

Thus situated, in full view of what I have endeavoured to describe, I am at this moment throwing my thoughts on paper,—not for my own amusement, not from any ambition of literary fame, but if possible to preserve a continuance of my home and home comforts. The necessities of my little establishment soon became too urgent to permit my remaining at Parkgate, however agreeable or congenial to my wishes; and it was my bounden and

immediate duty to launch out again into a sea of unpleasant action.

For the first time for many years, I now found myself a *solitary Itinerant*. The cheering chit-chat—the enlivening sorrow-scaring society of a little woman who, for near forty years, had shared my fortunes, was wanting. I only kept up my spirits by reflecting that her aged parent was a gainer by the sacrifice."

Throughout the nine volumes of his amusing work, RYLEY is often enthusiastic in praise of his beloved NANNY; always glooming when compelled to leave her; and beside himself with joy when able to rejoin her after a little turn of luck. Once, hastening home after a three months' absence, he describes his feelings thus:—

"Every stage drew me nearer; and after a tedious day's journey, I arrived late in the evening at Chester. The sight of the old town was always cheering to me; and became doubly so now, because it undeniably proved that the cottage of comfort was near at hand. At ten the following morning I left the coach at the village of Neston, a mile from Parkgate; and as I walked down the hill, and my little white dwelling came into view,—need I say the sight was grateful? Aye, none more delightful in all the round world, than the white walls of that village out to the returning Itinerant.

When reflection draws nigh the time now gone by
Through a life nearly three score and three;
Those least I repent, are the days I have spent
At my cot on the banks of the Dee.

A forty years' guest most dear to my breast,
From whose fetters I ne'er would be free,
Drives all sorrow away, and makes cheerful the day
At my cot on the banks of the Dee.

To this rural retreat from pride and deceit
'Tis a mental indulgence to flee;
And the wish of my heart is in life ne'er to part
From my cot on the banks of the Dee."

There is more yet to tell of poor RYLEY and his NANNY from a local point of view; but enough has for the moment been written to identify the house of LUCY D. T's pilgrimage.

T. HUGHES.

[846] EPITAPH AT INCE.

[No. 821.—September 17.]

The rhyming epitaph on a blacksmith at INCE occurs with but slight variation in other English churchyards. One of the year 1797—the year following the date of the Ince example—appears in EYAM Churchyard, Derbyshire. In this there is a remarkable variation in the fourth line, which reads thus:—

"And in the earth my voice is laid."

The one bearing the latest date I have met with is in the churchyard of ALDERLEY, and as it is a Cheshire example I quote it at length:—

"In memory of John Henshall, of Nether Alderley, who died Dec. 25th, 1844, aged 77 years."

"My sledge and hammer lie declined,
My bellows too have lost their wind,
My fires extinct, my forge decayed,
My vice is in the dust all layed,
My coal is spent, my iron gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done,
My fire dried corpse lies here at rest,
My soul smoke-like soars to be blest."

The last two lines are an addition to the ordinary form of the epitaph. It will be noticed that the word "declined" terminates the first line in the INCE and ALDERLEY examples: this is an evident mistake for "reclined," and which latter word appears at EYAM.

T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

Brookwood Mount, Surrey.

OCTOBER 8, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Oct. 8.—Chester City Election, lasting 12 days, commenced	1812
„ 9.—Allen, Aston, and Knox hung at Boughton for a Burglary at Northenden	1791
„ 10.—Double toll, formerly claimed by the Corporation at the Fairs, abolished...	1785
„ 11.—Chester illuminated to celebrate the Peace	1801
„ 12.—First stone of St. Bridget's new Church, Chester, laid by the Lord Bishop.....	1837
„ 13.—Richard Oldham, 22nd Abbot of Chester, died	1485
„ 14.—Byley Church consecrated	1849

J. H.

Original Documents.

[847] CHESTER POOR IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

[See also No. 618, April 16.]

Poverty of a certain sort wasn't half such a bed of roses in Queen Elizabeth's days, as some of its professional votaries contrive to make it now. The sturdy tramp, rambling casually about from place to place, heaping insult and anathemas on those traders and householders who refused to patronise his lazy habits, was handled with far less forbearance, but perhaps greater justice, than is generally accorded to him in those later times. If any such ventured then within CHESTER's walls, he was pounced upon at once by the Alderman and Constable of the Ward in which he was

found, and placed in the Stocks for a day and night; and, on being released, he probably shewed a nimble pair of heels, and took care to trouble our old city no more.

Even for the honest poor, those whose poverty was the result mainly of misfortune or want of thrift, residence in Chester was not a thing to be very greatly coveted. With magisterial leave they might certainly beg, but not outside the Ward in which they were appointed to reside, and only a certain number were allowed even to do that. Workmen in those days had, it seems, no right to become poor or sick, or to grow old; but if they did, woe betide them and their families, and even the landlords who gave them shelter! The following ORDER OF ASSEMBLY, made October 8, 1596, bears closely upon this subject:—

"BUILDING OF COTTAGES PROHIBITED.

"And Whereas, by daylie experience, greate inconveniences and Charges to this Citie have arisen, and more lyke to arysse, in that divers and sondry Covetous p'sons for their owne private comoditie have vsed to erecte and build w'thin this Citie cottages, and therein have placed Labourers whoe in verie fewe yeares, hauinge bene replenished with wief and children mayntened only by their Daylie Labo'r, when it hath pleased god to visite those Labourers with any kynde of sickness, not able to gett their Lininge by travaile; or that they have decessed and Dyed; this Citie hath bene charged both with their Wief and Children, as comen beggars: and for the avoydinge of the Lyke hereafter, Motion is nowe made by MR. MAIOR whether meete that any such Cottages shall henceforth be built w'thin this Citie or not.

"Wherevpon nowe it is ordered by Mr. Maior and this whole Assembly that noe Citizen nor other inhabitant w'thin this Citie shall henceforth, vpon payne of tenne pounds, to be forfected to this incorporac'on, erecte or build or Cause to be built any such Cottage in any parte or place w'thin this Citie, or the liberties or franchises thereof."

What would be said now to such a law as this in Chester, where forests of cottages are being rapidly run up in the outskirts to satisfy the wants of an increasing population? The misdemeanant of that day would, if living, regard himself as a public benefactor now!

Two years afterwards another ORDER appears in the ASSEMBLY BOOK, calling upon the Aldermen to make a raid upon the unfortunate Cottagers and Lodgers, as if to terrify them out of the city. The date of this Order is May 11, 1598, in the mayoralty of Thomas Fletcher.

"TOUCHING SURVEY OF INMATES, &c.

"Alsoe whereas, by a form' Order taken, eu'ie Alderman and Constable of all their seu'all Wardes within this Citie are monethly to s'vey all Inmates and other disorders within their seu'all wardes, vpon payne of euery one makeinge thereof default, x.s., It is nowe

ordered that the said order shall henceforth be putt in Due execu'on, and that eu'ie such Alderman and Constables of euery the seu'all wardes within this Citie shall vpon fryday ou' sevenight s'vey and oversee in euery their owne p'per p'sons all the Inmates and other Disorders in their seu'all wardes; and vpon the monday then next following Certefye Mr. Maior of their Doings therein, and soe from moneth to moneth monethlie, and Certefy their doings eu'y monday after such their monethly travayle and s'roh, vpon payne of euery of them makeinge thereof Defalte, tenne shillings duly to be payde, Wherevnto alsoe the Whole Aldermen have assented, and yielded their good lykings and wish the same should soe be."

An Alderman's position in that early day was by no means the sinecure it has come to be in ours; for, besides the obnoxious kind of work indicated above, the whole magisterial duty of the city, and a load of other responsibilities, rested on their aldermanic shoulders.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the House of Assembly, the evils complained of remained as serious as ever. Possibly the mere letter of the Order quoted above was obeyed, and no new Cottages were erected for the use of the poor; but the spirit was evaded by the offenders in an even more objectionable way, as the following flat, issued April 20, 1604, during one of the then frequent visitations of the PLAGUE, will show. Mr. John Aldersey was now Mayor of Chester, and was one of those active and prominent men who leave their mark, locally, on the age in which they live. The Order runs thus:—

"PROVISION FOR REMOVING INMATES AND PROHIBITING CONVERSION OF HOWSES INTO COTTAGES.

Alsoe, whereas by experience heretofore, and especially in the tyme of this present visitac'on, it appeareth very evidently that diu'se auncient dwellinge howses within this citie, beinge heretofore vsed severally to be inhabbited only with one howsehold'r and noe moore, are nowe of late tyme made and converted into many severall Cottages and dwellinge howses, and three, flower, or moore severall howseholders dwellinge and abidinge in many of the same auncient howses, and diu'se straungers and forriners admitted to be inmates and to inhabbite and dwell in the same; and that by reason thereof doe growe and arysse many inconveniences and great discommodity to this citie, and thinhabitants in the same, and is a greate occasion of encrease of the number of poore people in the same citie; whose inhabbitinge in those howses, doe only live and are maintained by almes and charitable devotions in this Citie: and straungers soe admitted as Inmates doe in continuance of tyme growe obstinate and cannot be removed, And w'ch doeth not only take away or much diminishe the maintenance and relief w'ch belongeth to the poore borne in the said citie, but much impou'isheth the state of the Commoners of the same Citie.

It is therefore ordered by a generall Concoent in this assembly that from hencefowrth noe person commorant or dwellinge within this Citie, nor any other person, being seised or possessed of any mesuages or dwellinge howses in the same Citie, shall not at any tyme hereafter putt, or receive or Suffer to be and Continewe, into any such howse any moore tennants than one at one tyme; nor shall admitt into the same any inmate to inhabbite and dwell therein or in any parts of the same, nor shall converte any such howse into severall Cottages; nor shall place any moore tennants then one in any one mesuage, withoute the speciall lycence and Consent of m^r maior of the saied Citie for the tyme beinge firste had and obtained. And that every such p^{son} admittinge of any tennants in to their howses shalbe bounded to the vse of the Maior and Citizens for the tyme being in such Somme and sommes of money, and in such sorte, as the saied maior for the tyme beinge shall sett downe and appointe, to exonerate, acquite, free and discharge ye saied Citie and the Citizens and inhabitants in the same, of and from all Chardges, Costs and sommes of money, w^{ch} by reason of any such tennants soe admitted, their wyves or Children, shall or maie att any tyme hereafter accrew, happen, and be vnto the same Citie, Vpon paine that every parson beinge free of this Citie, and offendinge in the Contrary, for every such offence to be disfranchised, and every other person not free in the same Citie and offending to the Contrary to forfeate for every tyme so offendinge ffyve powndes."

EDITOR.

Notes.

[848] CHESTER POPULATION IN 1801 AND 1811.

According to a return made to Parliament the population of Chester in 1801 was 15,052; and in 1811, 16,140. This is the population exclusive of the Local Militia, the total for 1811 being as under:—

Total Males	7007
" Females	9138
" Militia	1332

17,472

I presume the "local Militia" means inhabitants of Chester, but excludid in the counting up of Males represented by the 7007 above mentioned. If I am correct in the supposition, then the Cestrians of 1811 must have been a warlike race, and it would be curious to know how many Males we had in the City in 1878, and how many of them were upon the Reserve Force in the same year.

A CESTRIAN.

[849] ANCIENT AND MODERN CHESTER.

"A Rover," whose excellent articles appear occasionally in the *Daily News*, is good enough to say that

BRUGES (in Belgium) is a far more curious place than CHESTER even. That of course is a matter of taste: my observation of the two places named leads me to say they are both curious, *but in a different way*. He has one remark to make, however, which is very worthy of notice, viz.:—That when old buildings are taken down in Bruges, they are replaced with new ones as nearly alike the old ones as possible. Why cannot we in Chester follow that excellent plan? I often sorrow over the modern neglect of the ancient pattern; for however beautiful some of our new elevations may be to the eye, they do not satisfy the taste which should characterise all our thoughts in an old place like Chester. A hint of this sort in THE SHEAF may induce some of our architects to bear it in mind; so that their names may go down to posterity as a race who had helped to preserve the beauties of the old city, for the pleasure of those that come after them. G. A. S.

Queries.

[850] BOOTH FAMILY OF CHESTER.

Can any of your readers, who may be versed in the history of Cheshire families, give any interpretation of that mysterious latin inscription which may be seen upon a large white marble mural monument, now placed on the wall in the north-east angle of ST. OSWALD'S Church? It records the death, and did mark the burial place, of Catherine, daughter of George Booth, Esq., of the noble family of Warrington, who married James Howard, nephew "Comitis Berkerensia" (who was he?) and of the ducal family of Norfolk.

The date of her death indicates that she was born in 1672, and probably married about 1692. She was attached to the Court of William III., and was a great favourite of his, for she was richly endowed with mental gifts and attainments.

Then follows a singular narrative. Being greatly attached to her husband, she on one occasion "offered her left breast to an unlucky sword" ["*Gladio infelici pectus lævum præbuit*,"] which penetrated her "*viscera tenera languida*," but did not do her any very serious harm, for "God quickly restored her to health." "This lamentable event caused more grief to the King than it did to herself." She died in 1765, aged 93.

It will be observed that she lived in the reign of seven sovereigns—Charles II., James II., William and Mary, Queen Anne, George I., II., and III.

Longevity seems to have been a characteristic of the Booth family, for another monument records the death in 1719 of George Booth, Esq., at the age of 84; and another the death of Elizabeth Booth in 1734, aged 96.

Some account of the members of this remarkable family, many of whom were residents in Chester in the 17th and 18th centuries, would be interesting.

Mollington.

G. B. B.

[851] CHESHIRE BARONETS.

Your correspondent who supplies us with a weekly note of interesting events has notified the following Cheshire Baronets, with the dates of creation:—

Sir George Booth, created a Bart.	May 23, 1611.
Sir Robert Cholmondeley	June 29, 1611.
Sir Rowland Egerton	April 5, 1618.
Sir Thomas Delves	May 8, 1621.
Sir William Brereton	March 10, 1626.
Sir Peter Leycester	Aug. 10, 1660.
Sir Thomas Smith	Aug. 16, 1660.

I need hardly say how this list can be greatly extended; and that in these gentle days, "when a host of untitled people are endeavouring to push themselves into the front, and are unwisely seeking to form local 'upper tens,' as if wealth could convert them into gentlemen," it would be interesting—and, indeed, useful—to perfect the lists of Cheshire Baronets, with the dates of creation; and also to show how the lines have been continued down to our own day, or how the titles fell into dormancy or otherwise, and when. *THE SHEAF* is becoming a book of reference; and the fuller it is of historic lore all the more useful will it be to that large class of reading men who have not the means of dipping into the pages of expensive authorities upon heraldic and genealogical subjects. I venture therefore to recommend this subject to the notice of "J. H.," and to ask him to follow it up, and to perfect his useful handiwork in the manner I have mentioned.

A LOVING ANTIQUARY.

Replies.

[852] THE "SILVER BASON O' CHESTER."

[Nos. 378, 529.—Nov. 20, Feb. 19.]

I think I have at length got a tangible trace of Peacham's oft-referred to "Silver Bason." My source of information is the very official and reliable one of the *CHESTER CORPORATION ASSEMBLY BOOK* preserved at the Town Hall. On the first day of September, 1605, EDWARD DUTTON being Mayor, I find the following interesting Order emanating from the House of Assembly:—

"THE BASON AND EWER, GEVEN BY THE LO: BISHOPPE OF LYNCOLNE, NEU' TO BE SOULDE OR EXCHAUNGED.

"And whereas the righte reuerend father in god the Lo: Bushoppe of LYNCOLNE, sometyme Lo: Bushoppe of CHESTER, of his meere goodwyll, to

make demonstrac'on of his entier affec'on to this Citie, Hath geueen vnto the same Citie one faire Bason and Ewer of Sylver, p'cell guilte, with an Insculption therevpon, Signyfinge that his wyll is that the same shall neu' be souelde, nor exchaunged, but still to be retained to the Citiees vse,

"It is therefore ordered at this assembly that his Lo's requests herein shalbe performed, And the said Basen and Ewer to be ever kepte to the Citiees vse, and not to be souelde, exchaunged, nor altered from the p'sente p'pertie thereof at anie tyme hereafter, vnlesse the same beinge gone olde and Decayed with wearinge, and soe broken, that it cannot be vsed, but of Necessitie muste be exchaunged."

The good Bishop, who thus "makes demonstrac'on of his entier affec'on" for the old city and its Corporation, was Dr. WILLIAM CHADERTON, a Lancashire man born, and educated at The King's School, Chester, and the Grammar School, Manchester. Becoming a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity there, he was on the 8th of November, 1679, consecrated Bishop of Chester, and in the same year also became Warden of Manchester. On the 5th April, 1695, he was translated to the more lucrative see of Lincoln; whence, ten years afterwards, he sent to his old friends at Chester the gift which attracted the notice of Peacham. Bishop Chaderton's "faire Bason and Ewer of Sylver, p'cell guilte," remained among the more precious treasures of the Corporation, until the exigencies of the Civil War and the Siege of Chester demanded the surrender of this and other of the City's plate, for the coining of money for the service of the king and the defence of the city.

T. HUGHES.

[853] ANTHONY GROSVENOR OF DODLESTON.

[No. 819.—Sept. 17.]

In *THE SHEAF* as above is given a copy of the Will of Anthony Grosvenor, dated 1575, with the name of THOMAS EGERTON occurring as one of the legatees.

Having had an opportunity, through the kindness of the Rector, of examining one of the old parish registers of DODLESTON, I find under the date of 1575, and under the head of "Burialls," the following entry:—

"Anthony Grosvenor the xixth of March."

I suppose this would be the testator referred to above.

About a mile and a half from the village of Dodleston, in Lower Kinnerton, and just on the border of the county, is a house which was formerly the family residence of some of the Grosvenors, but which is now occupied as a farm-house. Anthony Grosvenor seems to have lived here, for by his Will he gave forty shillings "to the makings of the highway betwixt the howse and Gorstelow." The latter place (now called Gorstella) is a hamlet about half way between "the howse" and Dodleston.

THOMAS EGERTON died in London, but was buried at DODDLESTON in 1617, as appears from the entry in the Register for that year, which is as follows:—

"Thomas Egerton cancellarius Angliæ occubuit Londino sepultus vero in Ecclesia parochia de Dodleston. April 10."

In 1829, during the incumbency of Archdeacon Wrangham, a marble monument in memory of the Chancellor was placed inside the tower of the church, on the south wall, and on it is the following inscription:—

"MAIOREM GLORIA POSTERIS QUASI LVMEN EST
SVBTVS JACET
QVIDQVID. MORTALE. FVIT
THOMÆ
BARONIS. DE. ELLESMERE
ET. VICE. COMITIS. DE. BRACKLEY
VIRI. ANTIQVA. VIRTUTE. AC. FIDE
PER. VIGINTI. PLVS. ANNOS
REGNI. ANGLIÆ
CANCELLARI
SCIENTIA. SCRIPTIS. FACVNDIA
SPECTATISSIMI
HOMINIBVS. EXEMPTVS. EST
IV. ID. . APRIL
ANNO. SACRO. MDCKVII.
Æ. CIRCVTER. LXXVI
ORINVR. MORIMVR
SEQUENTER. QVI. NON. PRÆCESSERINT."

Under this inscription is a coat of arms with the motto—SIC DONEC.

Further on in the Will the Testator mentions his "cousin Elizabeth, wyfe to Mr. Thomas Egerton." By the side of the monument just mentioned is another to Elizabeth Egerton, who died in 1688, but I cannot find any reference to her in the register for that year; yet from the fact of her being buried in the same place as Thomas Egerton, I conclude she was his "wyfe." The inscription on this monument is as follows:—

"FALLAX GRATIA VANA FVLCHRITVDO
MVLTIS TIMENS D'N'Æ IPSA LAVDABITVR."
ELIZABETHA HIC CONDITA EST EGERTONA,
PIE FAMILIAM BEKIT, INSTITVIT NATOS,
VITÆ VIRILI MENTE SVSTINUIT CVRAS,
PLVSQVAM VIRILI MENTE SVSTINUIT MOREM
IVVIT IACENTES PAYPERES MANY, VOCE,
DESIDERATAM, SPONSVS. ET. SVI. LVGENT,
QVOS IPSA LIQVIT, SED DEDIT SVIS SESE,
MATRI ILLA PARTEM REDDIDIT, PATRI PARTEM,
TERRÆ ILLA CORPVS REDDIDIT, DEO MENTEM,
SIC TOTA SALVA EST, SIC ET OCCIDIT TOTA,
VIS PLVRA, OCELLOS FLENTIV' LEGE OCELLOS
IN HIS NOTANTVR, PLVRA, PLVRA SCRIBVNTVR.
NON ORIVT, SED ABIVT
ANNO D'N'i 1588.

Mention is made of the testator's "nephue Richard grosvenor," to whom he gives his "newe satten Dublett," &c. I find an entry made in 1579 of the burial of a "Mr. Rychard Gravonor, the iij of Februarye," and again, in 1629, of "Richard Grosvenour, September 3."

One of the witnesses died apparently either in 1576 or 1591. In the register I find an entry of the burial of "Julian Gravonor the iij of September" in 1576; and of "Julian Gravonor the xxij of Julye" in 1591.
Dodleston. G. M.

[854] EPITAPH AT INCE.

[No. 821, 846.—Sept. 17, Oct. 1.]

I have seen more than half-a-dozen versions of the Blacksmith's Epitaph. There is one at Cheltenham, which contains the two additional lines mentioned by Dr. Brushfield. I don't know the date of this, but the copy I have of it was made sixty-five years ago. Whether "declined" at the end of the first line is a mistake for "reclined" or not it is hard to say: the eight-line version at Cheltenham has it so, and in some of the other versions I have alluded to, the word is also "declined." If Tim Bobbin did pen the original, then all the versions are slightly inaccurate, for he wrote "My hammer and my anvil's low reclin'd."

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. R.

[855] ERBISTOCK.

[No. 823.—September 17.]

In Camden's *Britannia*, vol. I, p. 173, I find the following suggestion as to the origin of the name of Erbistock:—

"It takes its name from a Prince called Erbine, and the Vale below the Church was called the Vale of Erbine. The addition of Stook or Stoke was very common among the Saxons."

Wrexham.

LANDWOR.

OCTOBER 15, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Oct. 15.—Chester Town Hall opened by the Prince of Wales	1869
„ 16.—Prince Leopold, consort of Princess Charlotte, visited Chester	1819
„ 17.—Thomas Cartwright, D.D., consecrated 16th Bishop of Chester	1686
„ 18.—Mary Lloyd executed at Chester for forgery at Stockport	1800
„ 19.—Queen Victoria visited Chester	1832
„ 20.—Prince of Wales' Cavalry Legion arrived at Chester for permanent duty	1809

J. H.

Original Documents.

[856] THE OLD BRIDGE-GATE, CHESTER.

Most readers of THE SHEAF are familiar with the old etchings and engravings of the BRIDGE GATE, as it

existed at the middle and end of the last century, and as left to us by the pencil and forethought of Mrs. Bridget Bailey, and other local artists of those days. The sight of those, and such like sketches, only makes us grieve the more that kindred spirits were not found, in previous centuries, to preserve the many charming and picturesque bits which must have adorned our old streets in the far off reigns of the Tudors and Stuarts.

The old BRIDGE-GATE was a stately structure, second only in importance, and in form not unlike, the ancient EAST-GATE: both were taken down towards the end of last century, when the rage for improving everything old off the face of the earth was rabidly in the ascendant. The BRIDGE-GATE had a massive circular tower on each side the arch; and on the western-most one was erected the tall water-works tower of which engravings are still to be found in the hands of local collectors. It is to these two flanking Towers that the following interesting Counterpart Lease, dated in 1574, refers:—

"The Bridge Gate.

"Thys Indenture made the sixteenth daie of August in the sixteenth yere of the raigne of our sou'aighe ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of god of England frunce and Ireland Quene, defend'r of the faith &c. Betwene Richard Dutton esquire, Maior of the Citie of Chester, and the Cytizens and Comynalty of the same Citie vpon thon parte, And Will'm Goodman of the Citie aforesaid, M'chaunte, vpon thother parte, Wytnesseth that the said Maior, Cytizens and Comynaltie of the said Cytie for diuers good causes them moveinge, with one assent and like good will, for them and their Successors, Haue, and by these p'nts doe, demise, graunte, sett, lett, and to ferme betake vnto the said Will'm Goodman, All those their Two Towers, Lyinge and beinge w'thin the Walls of the said Citie called the [words omitted in the original] now or late in the seu'all holdings and occupac'on of Will'm Kent and John Horton, At a certaine gate of the said Citie called the Burdgate and vpon the North ende of A certaine Burdge called dee Burdge; whereof thon Tower lyeth vpon thest parte of thetringe into the said gate, And thother Tower vpon the west part of that entringe into the said gate; with all and singler Rowmes, easem'ts, comodities, and p'fitts to the said Towers or either of them lyinge belonginge or App'tainynge w'th their app'tenno's. To haue and to holde the said Towers and all other the p'miss's w'th thapp'tenno's vnto the said Will'm Goodman, his executors and Assignes, from the feaste daie of St. Michael Tharchangell next ensuinge the daie of the date of these p'nts, for, by, and duringe the full ende and Terme of Threscore yeres from thens next ensuinge, and fully to be compleate and ended; Yeldinge and payinge therefore yerely duringe the said Terme vnto the said maior Cytizens and Comynaltie of the said Citie and their Successors, for the vse of the Citie and Comynaltie aforesaid, vnto the hands of the Treasurers of the

same Citie for the tyme beinge, Three shillings eight Pence of lefull money of England at the feasts of Thannu'd'ac'on of our lady mary the virgen and of St Michael Tharchangell, by even porc'ons, Provided alwaies, &c., &c., &c., P'vided also, and it is concluded and agreed, that it shall and may be lefull to and for the Maior Cytizens and Comynaltie of the said Citie and their Successors, into the said Towers to resenter in the tyme of warre within this Realme of England, either with or Againste the said Realme, and the same Towers for the defence of the said Citie duringe such tyme of warre to occupy and vse at their wills and pleasure. And the said Will'm Goodman for him self, his executors and Admynistrators doeth coven'nte by these p'nts to vphold repair and kepe in good rep'acon the said Towers Duringe the said Terme, and at thende thereof, the same beinge sufficiently repaired, shall surrend'r and leave. In Considerac'on whereof the said maior Cytizens, and Comynaltie, &c., &c. In wytness whereof, to thase p'te of these p'nts remayninge in the custody of the said Will'm Goodman, the said maior Cytizens and Comynaltie haue caused to be sett the Comon Seal of the said Citie, And to the other p'te thereof remayninge in the Treasury of the said Citie the said Will'm Goodman hath sett his hands and Seale, the daie and yere first aboue written."

The old Gateway, including the two Towers named in the deed, and the tall water-tower overhead, were all pulled down in 1781, in which year and the following one the present Gateway was erected at the city's cost.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[357]

THE GOLDEN CITY.

That fine old Englishman, the late Lord Palmerston, always spoke of Chester as "the Golden City," meaning thereby that the Grosvenors, Warburtons, Booths, Crewes, and Egertons had spent many hundreds of thousands of pounds upon the "free and independent electors," in the palmy days when voting for or against a candidate was looked upon as a pure matter of business. Those bright epochs in our history are now happily things of the past, but it is as well to keep up the remembrance of them upon the pages of the golden SHEAF; so long as we can do so without offending the prejudices of any section of the community, as so many notable landmarks in our local history for the use of those who come after us. I have found the following "notes" among some old papers in my collection, the handiwork, evidently, of a scribe who took pleasure in recording the Cestrian doings of old times. He says:—

" In 1728 election 1032 freemen voted.	
" 1732 " 1109 do.	
" 1747 " 1171 do.	
" 1784 " 1095 do."	

Then he has a big jump from 1784 to 1812, when he says:—

" Mr. John Egerton, of Oulton, and Mr. E. V. Townshend, of Wincham, in this year opposed General Grosvenor and Sir Richard Brooke, and the votes given at that election may be thus summarised:—

Splits between Grosvenor and Brooke...	568
" " Egerton and Townshend	528
" " Grosvenor and Egerton	52
" " Egerton and Brooke	4
" " Townshend and Brooke	1
Plumpers for Mr. Egerton	10
" for General Grosvenor	7
" for Sir Richard Brooke	1"

In the published papers relating to this well-known contest I find an "Intended Speech of Sir Richard Brooke's" in verse, wherein the worthy Baronet is supposed to gibbet a good many people who had dealt unkindly by him. The names of the offenders are left out, but our scribe has filled them up in ink, and opposite to *three* of them he has "punished" them in MS. thus:—

I.

"——— the deep, the servant of the Times,
Prince of the Blacklegs—King of all their crimes;
He who can bribe a Jockey, clame [P olem] a Horse,
Deceive a friend,—do all without remorse.

II.

A vile and vicious scoundrel this,
A rascal and a knave;
He fobbed the Grosvenor gold, and then—
He voted for the Slave.

III.

Egad! I wonder how he fared
When Richard's back was turned;
I know he ate and drank enough,
But Johnny's gold he *spurn'd*."

So bitter were our forefathers when their passions governed them! In a few short years the defamed and their defamers were under the green sward, but you see in these doggerel lines how "their works do follow them!" A chapter upon the old Parliamentary and Municipal Contests of Chester—free from party spirit—would be interesting; as showing how the ancient history of "the Golden City" was made up in these particulars, from the Restoration to the demise of Farmer George in 1820.

A CESTRIAN.

[858]

GREGORY CROMWELL.

In the Treasury of the Exchequer was preserved the voluminous correspondence of THOMAS CROMWELL, Earl of Essex, the great minister of Henry VIII., and his confederate in the Dissolution of Monasteries, and

the other concomitants of the REFORMATION. From vol. ix. of these valuable historical documents, now made available to the world at the Public Record Office, the following curious Letter from Henry Dowes, tutor to Cromwell's son GREGORY, was copied some forty years ago, and printed in a scarce volume entitled, "King Henry the Eighth's Scheme of Bishopricks," London, Charles Knight and Co., 1838.

As will be seen on perusal of the Letter, the tutor and his young charge were at the time staying at CHESTER, and were apparently guests of the Abbot of St. Werburgh's. The tutor describes to his great patron the course of studies pursued by his pupil, and gives a good notion of the system of instruction then in vogue for the young scions of the aristocracy. From another letter of the tutor's to Cromwell, within five months previously, it may be gathered that there were several travelling tutors in daily attendance on young Gregory at this period. The second is the only letter which concerns us locally, and that we now give entire:—

"After that it pleased your maistership to give me in charge, not onlie to give diligent attendaunce vppon Maister Gregory, but also to instructe hime w't good letters, honeste maners, pastymes of Instruments, and such other qualities as sholde be for hime mete and convenient. Pleasith it you to vnderstande that, for the accomplisshmente thereof, I have indeuoured by all weys possible to invent and axcogitate howe I might mooste profett hime; in whiche bihelf, thorough his diligence, the success is suche as I truste shalbe to your good contentation and pleasure, and his no smal profecte: but for cause it is so moche to be regarded after what fashion yecouth is educate and brought upp, in whiche tyme that that is lerned (for the mooste parte) will nott all holelie be forgotten in older yeres, I thinke it my dutie to ascertayne yo'r Maistership, how he spendith his tyme, so that if there be anythings contrary yo'r good pleasure, after advertisement receyved in that bihelf, it may be amended.

And firste, after he hath herde Messe, he taketh a lecture of a dialoge of Erasmus *Colloquium*, called *Pietas puerilis*, wherine is described a veray picture of one that sholde be vertuously brought upp; and forcause it is so necessary for hime, I do not onlie cause hime to rede it over, but also to practisae the preceptes of the same, and I have also translated it into englishe, so that he may conferre thereine both together, wherof, as lerned men affirme, cometh no small profecte; which translation pleasith it you to receyve by the bringer hereof, that ye may judge howe moche profitable it is to be lerned. After that, he exerciseth his hand in writinge one or two houres, and redith vppon Fabians *Chronicle* as longe: the residus of the day he doth spende vppon the lute and virginall. When he rideth (as he doth very ofte), I tell hime by the wey some histories of the Romanes or the Grekes, whiche I cause hime to rehearse ageyne in a tale.

For his recreation he vseth to hawke and hunte, and shote in his longe bowe, whiche frameth and succeedeth so well w't hime that he semeth to be thervnto given by nature.

My Lorde contineweth or rather daily augmenteth his goodnes towards hime. Also the gentlemen of the Countrey, as S'r John Dawne, S'r Henry Delves, Mr. Massey, Mr. Brerlton, Baron of the Kinges Eschequer there, and diverse others, so gentlye hath interteigned hime, that they seme to strive who sholde shewe him moste pleasures: of all whiche things I thought it my dutie to asseraigne yo'r good Maistershipp, moste humblye desirenge the same to take in good parte this my rude boldenes. And thus I pray the trinitie longe to preserve yo'r good health w't encrease of moche hono'r, at CHESTER, the vijth daie of Septembre.

Yours humble serv'nte

HENRY DOWES.

To his moste worshipfull Maister, Mr.
Secretarie."

This letter is without date; but from the circumstance of Cromwell being Master of the Rolls and Secretary of State at the time, though not yet knighted, it must almost of necessity have been written in the year 1535, just six years before the foundation of the see of Chester. His only son GREGORY, the youth whose education was, as we have seen, so faithfully guarded, was I suppose at least 17 years old, for he was raised to the peerage by special writ in 1539. He married Elizabeth Seymour, sister to Lady Jane Seymour, third Queen of Henry VIII., and thus became uncle to King Edward VI.

The "My Lorde" who was so attentive to the young man and his tutor was probably the ABBOT of ST. WERBURGH'S, JOHN BIRCHENSHAW, who must have been at the time a very old man,—indeed history records that he died in that year.

G. T.

Queries.

[859] THE CUSTOM HOUSE, CHESTER.

Many of your readers will remember the predecessor of the present Custom House, and the Sun-dial which ornamented its front. The building is said to have been erected 200 years ago; but as there must have been a Custom House at Chester long before that date, I wish to learn where that older structure was situated? What became of the Sun-dial? M. O. Y.

[860] HOSPITALLEERS OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

Did this celebrated mediæval brotherhood own any, and if so, what, lands in Cheshire? They seem to have possessed estates in almost every county of England, but I have no recollection of noticing that any Cheshire

property was vested in the Hospital. Some correspondent of THE SHEAF may be able to, and in that case I hope will, enlighten me upon this subject.

NEMO.

[861]

JEMMY'S BOAT.

I notice that there is a large flat-bottomed boat now being built in the GROVES near Aikman's garden, said to be intended for the Ferry at Jemmy's Boat, a few miles up the Dee. Does any history attach to this Ferry,—and who was the Jemmy who has become so familiar to picnic parties from Liverpool and elsewhere?

L. L.

Replies.

[862]

EWLOE CASTLE.

[No. 723.—July 2.]

"A WOODMAN," like our fair correspondent "LUCY D. T.," occasionally asks very awkward questions, questions it is well nigh impossible to answer. As such I at first regarded the Query about EWLOE CASTLE; for the minor fortresses of the Welsh borders have not been much studied by any of our early antiquaries, and the materials remaining to modern students are not numerous, or at all events not readily accessible.

An enquirer's first refuge for help must naturally be the pages of PENNANT; who was in very soul an antiquary, and who seems to have ransacked almost every known depository when writing his two incomparable volumes of *Tours in Wales*. Turning then to vol. 1., p. 90, I read that:—

"There is no sort of tradition about the founder of the castle of EULO. Whether it might not have been built by one of the lords of *Tegangle*, or whether it was erected by Henry III. to prevent a similar disaster [his defeat by Owen Gwynedd's two sons at the Battle of Coleshill, near Flint], by placing a garrison here, I will not pretend to determine. It has been for centuries in ruins; for LELAND speaks of it as 'a ruinous castle or pile, belonging to Hoel, a gentleman of *Flyntshire*, that by ancient acoustume was wont to give the bagge of the sylver harpe to the best harpir of *North Wales*, as by a privilege of his ancestors. He dwelith at *Penrins* in *Flyntshire*.' We know [says Pennant] of no such place in the county; but suspect that the gentleman intended was *Thomas ap Richard ap Howel*, lord of *Mostyn*, in whose family that privilege was long invested; that gentleman having been cotemporary with *Leland*. The manor of *Eulo* was reckoned an appurtenance to the manor of *Montaldo*, or *Mold*."

Foiled here, there was still one resource left, and that was as good as inaccessible in the days of Pennant,—I mean the Records of North Wales and Cheshire, then stowed away in Chester Castle, but now in the Public

Record Office, London. From the Calendar of these invaluable local documents, I have obtained the following abstract of a Royal Inquisition, bearing date 4th Edward II., A.D. 1311, which lets in a flood of new light, and in fact settles the question as to the founder of EWLOE. The abstract runs thus:—

"EWLOE manor. Inquisition upon a writ commanding the Justice of Chester to certify as to the King's right to the manor of EWLOE, finding that OWYRN GONEITH [Gwynedd], sometime Prince of Wales, was seised of the manor of Ewloe, in his demean as of fee; at whose death David, son of Oweyn, entered on the said manor as Prince of Wales, and held the same until THLEWELYN, the son of Jor', overcame the said David, and took from him the said principality, together with the manor of EWLOE; that the said Thlewelyn died seised of the said principality and manor, after whose death David, son of the said Thlewelyn, entered upon the same manor and died seised thereof. After whose death King Henry III. occupied the same and four Cantreds in Wales, that is to say, those between the Dee and the Conway, and made Roger de Mohaut his Justice of Chester; who attached the same manor to his (the said Roger's) neighbouring lands of Hawrthyn and Mouhaldeedale, to which it had never belonged, and made a park of the wood of Ewloe; and so held the same manor and park until THLEWELYN, son of Griff, son of Thlewelyn, Prince of Wales, recovered the said four cantreds from Henry III., and again attached them to the principality of Wales. That the said Thlewelyn ousted the said Roger from the said manor, and attached the same to the principality as it was before, and built a castle, in the corner of the wood, which was in great part standing at the time of the Inquisition, and afterwards gave the said manor to Ithel ap Blethin to hold of him; that the said Thlewelyn continued seised of the said manor as Prince of Wales until overcome by Edward I., who seised the said manor not only in right of his conquest, but of the conquest by Henry III. of the said four Cantreds. That after the death of Roger de Mohaut, the wife of Robert son of the said Roger recovered dower of the said manor, as the freehold of the said Roger, Joscelyn de Badelsmere then being Justice of Chester. That the King, on the recovery of the said dower against him, removed the said Joscelyn and appointed Reginald de Grey Justice of Chester; and commanded him to inquire by what right the wife of the said Robert had recovered the said dower: that the said Reginald found that no claim of dower could be founded on the appropriation made of the manor by the said Roger while he was Justice. Upon which finding the said wife was ousted from her dower, and the same taken into the King's hands; and that such was the right of the King to the said manor, which was of the yearly value of 60*l*."

It thus appears that at the time PENNANT wrote, in his *Welsh Tours*, that "there is no sort of tradition about the founder of the castle of Eulo," the evidence

to prove the contrary was all the while hidden in a musty parchment within the walls of Chester Castle! And thus I am now enabled to state, somewhat dogmatically, that EWLOE CASTLE, the ruins of which still look out over the picturesque wood, was built by the brave and famous PRINCE LLEWELYN, in or about the year 1258. T. HUGHES.

[863] THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

[Nos. 811, 837.—September 10, 24.]

In reference to your query, "Why in 1448 so many of the Cheshire gentry appear on the roll of Humphry, Duke of Buckingham?", it may be mentioned that in 1441 the Duke was Seneschal of HALTON, Cheshire.

A LANCASTRIAN.

[864] GROSVENOR M.P.'S. FOR CHESTER.

[No. 841.—October 1.]

The following members of the Grosvenor family have been representatives for Chester in various Parliaments:

"31 Car. II., 1 Jac. II., 1 Will. and Mary, 7 Will.

III., 10 Will. III.: Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart.

1 Geo. I., 8 Geo. I.: Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart.

1 Geo. II.: Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart., and Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.

Sir Richard Grosvenor died in July, 1732, and Thomas succeeded to the title, but died 31st January, 1733, Robert Grosvenor, Esq. being substituted.

8 Geo. II., 15 Geo. II., 21 Geo. II.: Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart.

27 Geo. II.: Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart., and Richard Grosvenor.

Sir Robert died 1st August, 1755, and was succeeded by Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.

1 Geo. III., 8 Geo. III., 15 Geo. III., 21 Geo. III.: Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.

24 Geo. III.: Thomas Grosvenor, Esq., and Robert, Viscount Belgrave.

On the death of Thomas Grosvenor in 1795 he was succeeded by his son Thomas Grosvenor.

26 Geo. III., 42 Geo. III.: Thomas Grosvenor and Robert, Viscount Belgrave.

On Lord Belgrave's succession to the Earldom of Grosvenor in 1802, Richard Earle Drax Grosvenor succeeded (formerly member for East Looe, Cornwall).

47 Geo. III. and 47 Geo. III.: Thomas Grosvenor and Robert, Viscount Belgrave.

53 Geo. III., Richard, Viscount Belgrave.

1 Geo. IV., Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.

7 Geo. IV., Richard, Viscount Belgrave and Hon. Robert Grosvenor.

1 Will. IV., 2 Will. IV., 3 Will. IV., 6 Will. IV., 1 Vict., 5 Vict., Hon. [Lord] Robert Grosvenor.

11 Vict., 16 Vict., 20 Vict., 22 Vict., 29 Vict., 32 Vict., Hugh Lupus, Earl Grosvenor."

On Earl Grosvenor succeeding to the Marquisate of Westminster in 1870, his cousin (son of Lord Ebury, who represented Chester as the Hon. Robert Grosvenor),

the Hon. Norman de L'Aigle Grosvenor, was elected member for the city.

The members of this family who have been Mayors of Chester are:—

- 1684. Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart.
- 1715. Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart.
- 1737. Sir Robert Grosvenor, Bart.
- 1759. Sir Richard Grosvenor, Bart.
- 1760. Thomas Grosvenor, Esq.
- 1807. Robert, Earl Grosvenor.
- 1810. General Thomas Grosvenor.

There have also represented the county in Parliament:—

- 18 James I., Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, Kt.
- 1 Charles I., 3 Charles I., Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton, Kt. and Bart.
- William IV., Richard, Viscount Belgrave.

And as Sheriffs of the county:—

- 12 Ric. II., 19 Ric. II., Sir Robert (le) Grosvenour of Houlme, in Allotstock.
- 44 Eliz., Richard Grosvenor of Eaton boats, esquire.
- 22 James, Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton boats, Bart.
- 20 Charles I., Richard Grosvenor, Esq., son of Sir Richard Grosvenor of Eaton boats, Bart.
- 1 Will. and Mary, Sir Thomas Grosvenor of Eaton, Bart.

And finally, the late Marquess of Westminster held the office of Lord Lieutenant for the County."

Ledsham.

B. M.

OCTOBER 22, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Oct. 23.—Sir Timothy Featherstonhaugh be-headed, for alleged Treason, in Chester market place	1651
„ 23.—Foundation stone laid of Birkenhead Docks	1844
„ 24.—Archdeacon Parnell, the poet, buried in Trinity Church, Chester	1714
„ 25.—James Poole, of Poole, in Wirral, created Baronet	1677
„ 26.—Second Confirmatory Charter from James II. to the citizens of Chester	1689
„ 27.—Dean Arderne by his Will gave his estates at Tarporley to Chester Cathedral.....	1688
„ 28.—Human skeleton found in digging ground at the Old Yacht Inn, Chester.....	1775
	J. H.

Original Documents.

[965] LAWSUIT ABOUT THE RIVER DEE FISHERY.

We print to-day from the Books of the now extinct Chester Trade Guild, "THE DRAWERS OF DEE," their Annual Statement of Accounts, as presented in 1607 and 1608 by the steward, Mr. WILLIAM BUCK. The Company, prompted by their Alderman, Mr. Robert Brerewood, in apparently quite as much the interest of the Grosvenor family as of the Guild itself, had engaged in a lawsuit with Sir WILLIAM NORRIS of Speke, kt., a large landed proprietor in Lancashire and Chester, in reference to that gentleman's asserted rights in the Fishery of the Dee. Just at that date, also, a suit was fought about the CAUSEWAY at the Dee Bridge, and in this dispute, too, "The Drawers of Dee" were heavily concerned, as the following Account will show. Mr. IRELAND, one of the counsel for the Company, was a neighbour of Sir WILLIAM NORRIS in Lancashire; and, being himself of a litigious as well as legal turn of mind, was probably at the time not on the best of terms with the good knight of Speke. We give one-half only of the Steward's Account to-day:—

"Disbursements of such monies as I, William Buck, steward of the Companie of Drawers in Dee, have disbursed since the first of July, 1606, vique Anno 1607.

2 Augustij.	first, spent about the Companies busines vpon the Complaint of S'r Will'm Norris, knight, for breaking his netts	vijd.
" "	spent vpon the Companie at Mr. fletchers seller...	vjd.
28 "	paid for a fish geuen to Mr. Glaseor	ijs. vjd.
" "	geuen to one to bring him the fish	vjd.
" "	more spent vpon Mr. Whitbie and the Companie	xiiijd.
" "	paid to Hugh Dods man for wrying 3 orders ...	xijd.
8 Decembr.	spent at Mr. Sheryffe fletchers	iiijd.
5 "	geuen to John Andrew for o'r Compan's dinner ...	xs.
7 Januarij.	spent in tending all daye in the exchequer	vijjd.
19 "	spent in going to Mr. Recorder with our peti- c'on	iiijd.
24 "	geuen to Thom's dalbie for making o'r peti'c'on ijs. iiijd.	

1 Maj.	spent when I went to Mr. Glaseor about the Companies busines	vjd.
" "	laid out about the petio'on sent to his Ma'tie to london	xls.
7 Junij.	geuen to Mr. Case for his fees and other charg's at hearing of o'r matter betwene the Companie and Mr. hursleston.....	xs. vjd.
" "	paid for horse hier, the same day, to the lea.....	xijd.
And again in the Accounts for 1807-8,		
15 Julij.	spent when the Companie went about the viewing of the Answers of o'r petio'on from london...	vijjd.
18 "	spent upon Mr. Recorder in white wine, suger, and rose water burned	xvijjd.
19 "	geuen to Mr. glaseor for his paines taken at london about o'r petio'on	xs.
" "	p'd for horse hier to the lea hall, the same tyme	xd.
" "	p'd for a pottell of seek brought to Mr. Glaseor	ijs.
" "	geuen to one to carry the seek.....	vjd.
" "	spent the same day at the lea, vpon Mr. glaseors men and myself before his coming home.....	vijjd.
20 "	spend in attending S'r Henry Townesend for the Delin'y of o'r petio'on from the lo: of Darbie	xijjd.
" "	It'm geuen to a man to staye ther Coming, lest they shold come ou' Eaton boate	vjd.
" "	bestowed vpon S'r henry Townesend the same tyme, a pottell of Canary wine and a pottell of sack	ijs. iijjd.
22 "	spent at the same tyme tending about o'r busines at the Castell...	xvd.
" "	spent the same daye vpon Mr. glaseors and Mr. Irelands men.....	xd.
23 "	bestowed vpon Mr. Ireland a pottell of sack and a quarter of suger	ijs. vjd.
12 August:	spent in going to Mr. glaseor about o'r suite against the sitting of the Earle of Darbie.....	xvd.

16 "	spent at going another tyme to Mr Glaseor by his appointm't	xijjd.
21 "	spent at tending the sitting of the Earle of Darbie.....	xvijjd.
26 "	geuen to Mr. Ireland for his fee	xs.
" "	p'd for horse hier to Ride to Warringto' to Mr. Ireland	xxd.
" "	spent the same day vpon myself and my horse ...	ijs.
" "	bestowed a quart of wine vpon one of Mr. Irelands men the same tyme	vijjd."

There are many items in this Account, worthy of a passing notice. For instance, besides the Mr. Ireland already referred to, a leading counsel in the case on the Company's side was Mr. HUGH GLASEOR, of the Lea, near Eaton Boat, one of the representatives for the city, a notice of whom appears at No. 370 of THE SHEAF. The great man's retaining fee seems to have taken the uncommon one of "a fish," costing 3s. 6d., no doubt a salmon, and perhaps from the Company's treasure house, the Royal Cage. "A pottell of sack," costing 2s., goes out to him later on as a refresher. The Recorder also, Mr. THOMAS GAMULL, had a finger in the business, and was on one occasion regaled with "white wine, suger, and rose-water burned" to the tune of xvijjd.

The EARL OF DERBY was at the time Chamberlain of the County Palatine, in which court the trial took place, and his lordship often, as in this case, sat in person; and Sir Henry Townesend was one of the Judges who tried the cause, being at the time Vice Chamberlain. What a curious sound, under these circumstances,—has that one item—"bestowed vpon S'r henry Townesend the same tyme, a pottell of Canary wine and a pottell of sack!" Judges in our days have somewhat nicer views about accepting presents from litigants in their courts, and few will say that the change is not for the better. Other matters of interest will crop up when we come to print the concluding portion of the Account.

EDITOR.

[866] THE MOOR WELL, DODLESTON.

In a meadow near DODLESTON is a well bearing the above name, the possession of which seems to have been a disputed point between the parishioners of DODLESTON and GRESFORD, as will be seen from the following extracts taken from the Dodleston Parish Register.

1623. This yeare the curate of GRESFORD and some of the p'ishoners of the meaner ranke came after a straglinge man'er, some of them ov' the moore and some of them through Pulford p'ish, unto the new Hey and soe to Moore Well; and said that that well was in thaire p'ish, yet could bring noe

proofs for it, but said they were commanded soe to doe by S^r RICH : TREAVO^r's; and when they went away, they went agayne into Pulford p'ish, where the p'son, M^r. TREAST, mett them, and rebuked them for romeinge out of their p'ish and from theire wonted bonds.

1642. This yeare the curate of Gresford, wth some of the p'ishioners havinge come for div^rs yeares to Moore Well, some of them on' the Moore and some of them through Pulford p'ish in p'session, saieinge that they were sent thither to clayne that well to be in their p'ish, yet know noe reason why they should doe soe. And now this yeare w— they were in the Moore, And they sawe some sould^rs standinge by the well (w^{ch} sould^rs went to see theire fashions) they the said curate and his companie wth him went back agayne, and neu' came unto the well.

1643. This yeare none of the p'ish of Gresford came unto Moore Well as formerlie they had done, neyther did soe much as any one of them come into the Moore this p'ambula^on time.

Dodleston.

G. M.

Notes.

[867] CHESTER, FLINT, AND RHUDDLAN CASTLES.

In the 32nd year of Edward I.'s reign (1303-4) as appears from the Ministers' Accounts on the Exchequer Rolls at the Public Record Office, the garrisons in FLINT and RHUDDLAN Castles must have largely exceeded those of CHESTER. This is accounted for by the fact that the King was more or less continually at feud with the Welsh; and that Flint and Rhuddlan respectively would be substantial bases from which to prosecute his designs on the Principality. Provisions and muniments of war would no doubt be accumulated in the two Welsh fortresses, so as to be instantly at hand to meet any emergency.

The following "Account of divers victuals, arms, &c., bought for the furnishing of the castles of CHESTER, FLINT, and RHUDDLAN," in the 32nd of Edward's reign, shews the importance, for the time being, attaching respectively to these three local strongholds 575 years ago. There were purchased for the Castle of—

"CHESTER,—1 hogshead of wine, 1 coralst, 2 cuirasses, 3 old iron skull-caps, 1 winder for a cross-bow, 1 wooden crossbow on two feet, 6 single-foot crossbows, and 1000 arrows.

FLINT,—40 qrs corn, 2 hogsheads wine, 39 qrs malt, 11 qrs 1 bushel peas, 10 carcasses meat, 30 fitches bacon, 200 dried fish, 3 mays of herrings, 7 qrs salt, "ffenn" " £3. 16. 10, one breastplate, 5 cuirasses, 6 old iron skull-caps, one bascinet and coif, 7 old targes and shields, 1 springall (for hurling

stones), 2 crossbows and 2 winders, 1 wooden cross-bow on two feet, 13 single-foot crossbows, and 1000 arrows.

RUDLAND,—100 qrs corn, 5 hogsheads wine, 180 gallons honey, 40 qrs barley, 20 qrs peas, 100 qrs oats, 20 carcasses, 50 fitches, 410 dried fish, 4 mays of herrings, 20 qrs salt, "ffenn" £11. 5. 8d, 7 cuirasses, 1 new iron skull-cap, 7 bascinets, 4 old targes and shields, 1 springall, 3 winders, 1 crossbow mounted in horn, 16 single-foot crossbows, & 20,000 arrows."

H. TAYLOR.

[868] ANCIENT AND MODERN CHESTER.

In a work—"Our Own Country"—now issuing in serial form by Messrs. Cassell and Co., there recently appeared a very interesting, descriptive, and historical article on the city of CHESTER, several extracts from which I have thought you might perhaps care to reproduce in THE SHEAF.

It will be seen that certain of these extracts will tend to emphasize the communication of G. A. S. (No. 849).

Persons who spend a life-time in a place like Chester, with changes very gradually taking place around them, are possibly not always quite the best able to realize the extent and effect of such changes. It might, therefore, be well occasionally to admit into THE SHEAF the remarks of those who (probably like the writer of the article in question) may be termed outsiders.

Here are the extracts:—

"There are very few towns where the *enceinte* of the walls is tolerably perfect—as at Conway and at York; so far as we know there is only one where it is possible to make the entire circuit without descending, and this is CHESTER.

This city also, as a whole, notwithstanding the many changes it has undergone in the last thirty years, preserves, better perhaps than any other in England, its connection with the past. It is the English Nuremberg, in some respects even more unique than that wonderful city, though its streets are less picturesque. It has certainly the advantage in situation. This, without being exceptionally beautiful, is far finer than that of the old German town on the sandy plain by the side of the hardly less sandy Pilnitz."

"But we must turn from the Chester of the remote past to the Chester of the present day. That, too, like so many of our English towns, has greatly changed during the reign of our Queen; and though still retaining, as we have said, the aspect of an old town, is rapidly becoming modernised, more convenient, and perhaps more healthy, but sadly less picturesque."

"Of course, like everything else, the Rows have shared in the general smartening up of the town during the last forty years, and have lost a good deal of their rugged quaintness, and singularly picturesque aspect; but they are religiously preserved in plan, though often much altered in detail. Still, here and there, parts remain

almost exactly as they must have been when the seventeenth century began.

The old houses are gradually disappearing, but Chester is still exceptionally rich in those picturesque structures, of timber and brick-work, which are especially characteristic of the western counties of England.

Subsequently the writer tells us that "this town, above all others in England, must not be seen at express speed"; and concludes with the following:—

"But it is time to leave the ancient city—a thing never easy for those who find a charm in memorials of the past;—and probably most travellers will agree with the latter part of a remark made once by Dr. Johnson to a lady: 'I have come to Chester, madam, I cannot tell how, and far less can I tell how to get away from it.'"

I may add in conclusion that a number of woodcuts illustrative of the most characteristic features in and around the old city, accompany the articles from which I have made the above quotations.

Mow Cop, Cheshire.

G. H.

Queries.

[869] ANCIENT LIBRARY AT CHESTER.

It is said that the library, and a most extensive one too, of a sixteenth century bishop of note came by some accident to CHESTER, where it was lost sight of for a number of years and ultimately got dispersed. Is there any truth in this tradition, and if so, what were the circumstances attaching to the library so far as Chester was concerned?

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[870] GERARD THE HERBALIST.

To which English University was John Gerard, our Cheshire noted herbalist, attached,—and what was the nature of that connection?

A WOODMAN.

[871] CONNAH'S QUAY.

Can any one refer me where I should be likely to trace out the origin of this name, as applied to a small port and railway-station on the DEE, between Queen's Ferry and Flint? I seem to remember, when quite a boy, that there was no quay there at all, properly so called.

SENEX.

Replies.

[872] SPITAL RAILWAY STATION.

[No. 816.—Sept. 10.]

This word is manifestly a corrupted form of Hospital. It frequently occurs in early English literature: e.g.

"He opened a secrete gate and out thereat
Conveyed her, that no man should espie,
Ther to a village halfe a mile thereby,
Delivered her in at the *spittel* hous,
And daily sent her part of his almons."

CHAUCER: *Testiment of Creseide*.

There was in the thirteenth century,—though no trace of it now remains,—a Hospital for Lepers in the township of Poulton in the Parish of Bebington: hence the name of the hamlet Spittle or Spital (cf. Ormerod's *Cheshire* New ed., Vol. ii. p. 448. Mortimer's *Wirral*, pp. 191. 2. Lysons' *Cheshire*, p. 505.) In the parish of ST. JOHN, CHESTER, there is also *Spital* Boughton,—so called from ST. GILES' HOSPITAL for lepers founded by Randal de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. This hospital continued long after the Reformation; among the Harleian MSS. is a letter of King Charles I., in 1630, in favour of the brethren of this hospital, requiring that they should not be molested on account of murage. It is possible that it was destroyed during the civil war. King Charles II. in 1685 granted the site and the lands belonging to this hospital to the Corporation, under which they are now held by small rents. The site of the hospital is now a burying ground." (Lysons' *Cheshire*, p. 625.)

Near the village of PRESTBURY there is a farm called Spital House: whether there was a leper hospital here I am unable to say.

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

[873] EPITAPH AT INCE.

[No. 821, 846.—Sept. 17, Oct. 1.]

The well-known epitaph on a blacksmith is much older than your correspondents appear to be aware of, and the claim of Tim Bobbin to have written it cannot, I think, be sustained. In the *New Universal Magazine* for December, 1748, it is given in the following form:—

"An Epitaph on a Smith, wrote by himself, in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln.

My stithy and hammer lie declin'd,
My bellows too have lost their wind;
My fire's extinguish'd, forge decay'd
And in the dust my vice is laid;
My coal is spent, my iron gone,
My last nail's driven, my work is done."

Whether "Stithy" is a misprint for "smithy" I cannot say.

In the same *Magazine* for November, 1751, the epitaph is given more according to the common version, as follows:—

"Epitaph on a Blacksmith.

My sledge and hammer lie declin'd,
My bellows have quite lost their wind,
My fire's extinct, my forge decay'd,
My vice is in the dust all laid,
My coal is spent, my iron gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done,
My fire-dry'd corps lies here at rest
My soul, smock-like, is soaring to be blest."

Hence it is clear this epitaph was known 130 years ago, and it is possible that the date of the tombstone in Lincoln Cathedral might be 30 or 40 years earlier. Is this tombstone known to be preserved?

Withington, Manchester. J. P. EARWAKER.

[874] ERBISTOCK.

[Nos. 823, 855.—Sept. 17, Oct. 8.]

If ERBINE came, according to the extract quoted by "LANDWON," from a princely race, it may fairly be said of his family that it was a saintly one as well. He was son of Cystennin Corneu ab Cynoar ab Tudwal, who derived in the sixth generation from Bran ab Llyr Llediarth. His brother Digain, also a recognised Welsh saint, lies buried at Llangerniew, in Denbighshire. ST. ERBINE's own son, Geraint, was the father of four sons, all saints of the British Church, viz., Jestin, Selyo, Cyngar, and Caw Cawllwg; and this last named was father of three sons, each in their turn canonized.

I presume ERBISTOCK Church on the Dee is dedicated to St. Erbine; for in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, compiled for Henry VIII., the church is called "St. Erbin's, stoke." Perhaps he was buried there.

There is an historical proverb among the Welsh, which I confess I don't quite see the drift of,—“It was not at once that Erbin (or Herbin) was obtained,”—probably referring to some now forgotten incident in this saint's career. G. T.

[875] INSCRIBED STONE ON CHESTER CITY WALLS.

[No. 844.—Oct. 1.]

The Inscription referred to by your correspondent "F. L. K.," reminds me of by-gone years, and of my father being one of the Churchwardens of St. Martin's Parish before its union with St. Bridget's. Whenever we reached this stone, on the occasions of walking the boundaries of the parish, we boys used to be regaled with biscuits. But your correspondent has omitted the important letters "S. M." (for St. Martin) deeply out on the same stone, thus completing the sense,

SO FAR GOETH THE PARISH OF R. H. I. W. C. W.	S. M. P.
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which is, however, spoiled by the addition of the letter "P," painted, not out, on the next stone. The letters "R. H." and "J. W." (only partially recorded by your correspondent) are evidently the initials of the churchwardens.

The mention of this stone reminds me of another old parish boundary on the Walls, at the top of the "Wishing Steps"; the following being a copy of it, the orthography of which is the only noticeable feature:—

O	So far goeth the Parish	S. MP.
S. P.	of St. marcy's	

ST. MARY'S and ST. OLAVE'S parishes join at this point, the City Walls themselves separating both of them from the parish of ST. JOHN'S immediately outside.

The Temple, B. WILBRAHAM JONES.
October 11th, 1879.

OCTOBER 29, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Oct. 30.—William, Earl of Derby, made Chamberlain of Chester, for life.....	1603
„ 31.—General Grosvenor and B. E. Drax Grosvenor returned M.P.s for Chester	1806
Nov. 1.—Hugh Bellot installed 6th Bishop of Chester.....	1595
„ 2.—Lawrence Fogg installed 16th Dean of Chester.....	1691
„ 3.—Victor Alexander, Earl Grosvenor, married Lady Sibell Mary Lumley ...	1874
„ 4.—Edward Brerewood of Chester, Professor of Astronomy at Graham College, London, died	1613

J. H.

Original Documents.

[876] LAWSUIT ABOUT THE RIVER DEE FISHERY.

(Concluded from No. 865, Oct. 22.)

We broke off last week at the point where William Buck, a Steward of the Company of DRAWERS IN DEE, had ridden on horseback to Warrington to confer with their counsel, Mr., afterwards Sir Thomas, Ireland of Bewsey, near that town, Vice-Chamberlain of Cheshire, and Counsel at law to the Earl.

We find him now riding over to the LEA to MR. GLASHOR's to hobnob with Sir Richard Lewknor, another of the Judges who had to try the cause:—

2 September. spent in going to Mr Glaseors, to the sea, to speak with Sr Richard luckner	xviij.
„ „ spent vpon horse hier.....	xij.
9 „ spent in going to Mr. glaseor about o'r business against the 21st of September	xiiij.

"	"	p'd for horsehier the same day to the lea	xiijd.			Justis of Assize, w'ch Mr. Ireland lost	xviijd.
"	"	spent the same day in going to Hooten to Mr. Glaseor	xviijd.	8	,	spent in attending vpon Mr. Ireland when he was at the Consistorie court upon his men to remember o'r busines at London	xvd.
15	"	spent when Mr. Glaseor appointed me to come for a l're to S'r Rio' luknor	xd.	16	"	bestowed vpon Mr. Recorder a quarte of muscadill	xiiijd.
"	"	geuen to his man for expeditio'on	xviijd.	23 Junij		paid for a fishe bestowed vpon the bearebruers and o'r selves after midsom' shoc	vs.
16	"	spent when I brought o'r books to Mr. Glaseor to see them before he went to London	xvj d.	"	"	geuen to the stewards of bearebruers upon agre-m't for o'r Companie at Midsom' Showe	vjs. viij d.
"	"	spent in foure days and a half, when I went to Bilves to S'r Rio' luknor, where he was not, and so from there to my lord of buckhurst to Shyfnall, vpon my horse and my self	xvijs. xd.	The call at Lea on Sir Richard Lewknor, as we see above, was followed up rather vigorously shortly afterwards, when the Steward went to Buildwas, Salop, to meet the Judge, but not finding him went on "to my lord of Buckhurst at Shiffnal." Here we touch an illustrious historic name; for Lord Buckhurst was a personal friend, we may almost say the patron, of England's foremost son, SHAKESPEARE. His lordship died within seven months from the Steward's business visit to Shiffnal.			
21	"	geuen to Mr. Ireland for a fee the first daye of the Assizes	xs.	Some of the concluding items have already appeared in the Midsummer No. of THE SHEAF, as illustrative of the Chester MIDSUMMER SHOW; but we have thought it best to present them again here, with the rest of the Steward's Account for the year in its complete form.			
"	"	geuen to Mr. Recorders man fer a new breuiat bestowed vpon Starkey, Mr. Ireland's man, for bringing o'r books from Warington, & for his care touching o'r business at sen'all tymes	vs.	EDITOR.			
"	"	bestowed vpon Sir Richard luknor a pottill of allegant [Alicant], price....	iijs.	[877] THE REVEREND PHILIP HENRY.			
22	"	bestowed vpon Sir Richard luknor a pottill of allegant [Alicant], price....	iijs.	Resuming the thread of our narrative, we find the overtures for peace still in progress, if progress it can be called; and now MR. HENRY, going over the ground once more in the following instruction to his representative, places his view of the matter in a clearer and more emphatic light:—			
"	"	spent the same day tending vpon o'r Counsellor ...	xvd.	"1. There is at Midsummer next, a hundred pounds due to me, which I desire may bee paid without abatement, (I have suffered by ye delay y's year),—the rather bee[ause] Mr. Pul[eston] suffered no detriment in the Corn-Tith the last harvest, but receiv'd y'em intire, only twenty pounds for ye small Tithes hee paid to Dr. Br[idgeman]. I can prove the paym't of 20li. p' Ann' for two yeares to Mr. Fogg, as Parson of Bangor, after this hundred pound p' Ann' was confer'd on mee; which evidences it to bee the Judges Intent that I should suffer no pre-judice therein by any claim that way.			
8 October.	"	spent when I went to hooton to the Earl of Darbie, to deliv' o'r petio'on, vpon my horse and my self	ijs. iiij d.	2. For the future, I would propose, if Mr. P. pleases,—1. That the House and Corn Tithes in reversion, w'n my Annuity determines, accor[ding] to ye Judges intention & Deed. . . . fact bee settled on the Church. 2. That Mr. P. may in			
"	"	for horse hier the same day	xvj d.				
1 Nouember.	"	geuen to Mr. Case for fees due to him before the last assizes, and for fees before the other assizes geuen to John Garnett towards the making of the banner	xxijs. vjd.				
"	"	geuen to the bearebruers vpon agre'm't for o'r Companie towards the Show at Midsom'	vjs. viij d.				
8 April	"	paid to Mr. Birkenhead p'rimetorie [prothonotary?] for a Coppie of the Declarac'on at the com'on lawe before the					

the mean time enjoy them. 3. That Dr. B. may have ye profit of ye small Tithes. 4. That the hundred pounds p' Ann' may bee paid to mee.

3. Let the Arbitrators pitch upon any other more equal way, I shall submit to it; provided it bee not in any case to the giving up of my Deed, whatever abatem't I make, nor to my voluntary removal, neither of w'ch dare I in conscience yeeld to, especially not the latter.

4. Let it bee considered, what I have been inform'd by learned Council, though I were removed, yet the Annuity remaines payable to mee, whilst I continue unpreferred otherwise.

5. There is further this to bee consider'd, that I left my Præstern't in Oxon, At ye Judges desire, whose letter I have to shew, to accept of this; & also, w'n I was put to my choyce by ye Coll[ege], I acquainted Mr. P. with it, who said, 'Stay & w't my Father hath Done, I will make good to the uttermost,' without w'ch promise from him, I think I had not stayd.

6. Dav: Phil: hath often said, So his Master were eas'd in the Hundred pound, hee did not care though I stayd in the Place."

Endorsed on back "Treaty with Mr. P." The document is written on the torn fly leaf of a letter, which is inscribed with the following address, apparently in the hand of his once brother parson and neighbour, Mr. Robert Fogg, of Bangor:—

"for his much Esteemed
and Reverend good friend
Mr. Henry, minister
of Worthenbury,
present these."

The Arbitration moved on but slowly, there being little hope from the first of any agreement; and no wonder, for of the "two Indifferent unconcerned p'ons" who had it in hand, one was the young parson's father-in-law, and the other a sworn friend of Dr. Bridgeman and Mr. Puleston, so there was little ground in common between them.

The next paper in the series is a set of "REASONS," arranged by Mr. Henry in three columns side by side, under the following heads:—

- "1. Why I should not yeeld to a Composition with Mr. P.
2. Why I should.
3. Why Mr P. should yeeld to a Composition with mee."

These Reasons are very fairly put and reasoned out by the poor parson: but having been already printed, with a few verbal errors, in Matthew Henry's *Life* of his good old Father, as edited by Sir John Bickerton Williams, in 1825, they need not be repeated here. There remains, however, one interesting Letter of Mr. Henry's, also in the collection of Dr. Davies-Colley of Newton, a collateral descendant of his, which we must on no account omit, as it has, we believe, never yet been printed. The letter is without address, but was probably to his father-in-law, Mr. Matthews.

"Sir,

I have considered the Proposal which you were pleas'd to make of endeavouring a Composition for mee with Mr. Puleston by the means of a Freind of your's, who hath Interest in him; and doe thankfully acknowledge your very great respect and favour towards [me therein]. The Condition on which you have to effect this is it seemes, no other, then a full and absolute r[esigna]tion of my whole claym and Title both in the Annuity and House also, which if valuable Consideration may bee had for it, I am willing to yeeld to; and the less shall bee accounted valuable to purchase Peace and his Fav'r. 'Twas a year and half, within few weekes, that I Officiated, since the last Payment, and for what is future, I shall refer my self to you and your Freind, only desiring, you would but suppose the Case to bee your own. For Arguments, I conceive, whilst I have so much Probability of Recovering, 'twill bee apparently found to bee for Mr. Puleston's Advantage to lighten his estate from the Burthen of such a charge, besides the incident charges of law; to which I might adde also some kind of Obligation that lyes upon him in poynt of Honor, considering the relation wherein I stood to him, and that I left my Place at the University upon the Grant of this from his Father. On each of these, Sir, as Occasion is given, I presume your own or your Freinds Prudence may enlarge; and whatever the success bee, you will acquire the Blessing of a Peace-endeavourer, if not a Peace-maker, and withal oblige

Your Kinsman and Servant,
PHILIP HENRY.

Worthenb: Jan. 15
1661."

Here the MS. material we have been dealing with ends, but from other sources we learn that the Arbitration fell through. The Act of Uniformity had now come into full swing: Mr. Henry could not see his way to conform, and Dean Bridgeman and he got as a consequence into serious conflict. The Dean and Mr. Puleston also fell into personal variance; and Sir Thomas Hanmer was called in to settle the whole business, which he did very summarily and with a high hand. The Rectors of Bangor were to have the tithe corn of Worthenbury, and the tithe hay of all except Emral demesne; and the Dean was to

"avoid and discharge the present minister or curate, Philip Henry, from the chapel of Worthenbury, and not hereafter, at any time, readmit the said minister, Philip Henry, to officiate in the said cure."

He was accordingly deprived on October 27, 1661, and a successor appointed. All he got in compensation for his arrears, annuity, lease, &c., was a paltry £100. He soon after removed to Broad Oak, where on the 24th of June, 1696, he died; leaving little behind him save a spotless name, and a son, Matthew Henry, whose virtues equalled, and whose fame largely transcended, his own.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[878] CHESHIRE DIALECT.

MON. MAN. "Why, mon alive, yo dunna say so!"
NOGGS. Herds, tow.

NON-BUT. Nothing but, or no one besides. "There was non-but him and me."

OCCARD. Awkward. "Gentlemen, yo'n placed me in a very ocard situation." Once said by a Mayor of Over when his health was drunk.

OCCUPACION. An old term for a salthouse or holding.

TO GET OUT OF, is to get rid or "shut" of anything.

OVER-GOT. To escape from. "The pig o'er-got him."

PEART. Lively. "Poor and peart like a parson's pig." The parson, probably, generally got the Rit for his tithe pig.

PICKING UP. Prospering. "He's picking up his crumbs nicely."

PIKE. To pick up. "He's piking stones."

PISMIRE. The ant. "He sat him down on a pismire's nest, and was bitten all o'er."

PITCH UPON. To select. (See *SHEAF* No. 163, page 218, 4.)

QUALITY. Gentlefolks.

RINGER. Crow, crowbar. An iron or steel lever, usually about four feet long. In *Plott's History of Staffordshire*, edition 1636, p. 153, is a description of the process of quarrying limestone. The rock is described as in horizontal layers, "broken up with iron wedges knock't in with great sledges (hammers), and prised up great leavers *with rings* round them, to stay the feet of the workmen who get upon them, whereof some weigh at least 150lbs.

ROOD. The Cheshire lineal rood is eight yards; and ditching, draining, and other work is often set by the rood.

SAVER. Savour; to make a thing tasty, as is often said "It will saver his mouth."

SAW-FILERS. The large Titmouse, whose note is like filing a saw.

SOIK. To sigh.

SKIM-DICK. Poor cheese, the result of "too many Ribbons" being taken out of the milk.

SMOCK-FROCK. Commonly called a smock. A garment which has quite disappeared, tho' not many years ago, almost universally worn in Cheshire by small Farmers and Labourers to work in. It was made of strong linen or cotton, and generally,

very elaborately braided on the breast and sleeves. It enveloped the person to the knees. To get into, and out of it, was an art. In putting it on, the hands were first inserted in the sleeves, and then swung round the head and wriggled into.

SOR. The drainage from a midden.

SORT. To beat. "Moi sake! but o'll sort yer:" also to tidy things away—"Come, Mrs., sort these things (tea things)."

SPEER. On the spree—having a drinking bout.

STRAW. A woman is said to be "in the straw" when confined.

SWEE-POW. Swing pole. The iron bars across the large old-fashioned open chimneys; once common in cottages and farmhouses, and from which hung a few links of chain to hold the pothooks. On one of these the kettle or cast-iron pot was suspended. A singular accident once occurred in connection with one of these swing poles. The story, as told by the late Archdeacon Wood, was as follows:—Many years ago a penurious old couple of the name of John and Betty Parrott, kept a public-house in Middlewich, in the kitchen of which was one of these large open chimneys. This wanted sweeping, and the old woman, thinking she might as well save the cost of the sweep, got up earlier than usual one morning and commenced operations with a broom. Not being able to reach far enough, she got on the hob; and becoming excited with her work, from that, she mounted to the swing-pole; and whilst reaching up to make a good job of it, her foot slipped, and she came down astride upon the bar. Here she remained fixed until she heard old John toddling down stairs, and then sang out lustily, "John Parrott, John Parrott!" John was at first greatly puzzled to know where the voice came from, and paused to listen, when Betty called out still louder! John responded, "Where are ye?" Betty (lachrymoseely): "I'm up the ohimbley; I'm on the swee-pow!" The appearance of a pair of sooty legs dangling below the chimney beam would place her whereabouts beyond any doubt. Whether John's engineering skill was not, alone, sufficient to extricate his spouse, I cannot say; but it appeared the affair got wind, and Betty never heard the last of it.

Tushingham Hall.

B. LL. V.

Queries.

[879] THE REBELLION OF 1745.

Readers of THE SHEAF will, I am sure, be more or less acquainted with the facts connected with the chivalrous, but misguided, attempt of PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART, in 1745, to regain the throne of his fathers. It was generally believed at the time, and subsequently, that there were large numbers of the humbler sort, and not a few of the higher orders, in North Wales who favoured his pretensions, and were ready to join his standard in the event of his success at Derby. The Prince arrived at that town on December the 5th, and fully expected succours from France, as well as that many of his English and Welsh friends would throw in their lot with him there. But being disappointed in these hopes, and knowing that his small following of some 5000 men were about to be confronted by an army six times that strength, under the command of the Duke of Cumberland, he and his generals decided that it would be better to beat a retreat, rather than hazard a meeting which must prove fatal to the entire enterprise. Accordingly the small, but devoted, army were soon on the road back again to those highland homes which it would have been better if they had never left.

About that date the following *jeu d'esprit* was published in the CHESTER JOURNAL. It is, as will be seen, a dialogue between a gentlewoman of Derby and her maid, Jenny; and serves to show, as indeed all accounts of the escapade prove, that wherever the young Prince went he made a deep impression on the tender hearts of the softer portion of humanity:—

Mistress: "Jenny, come here; I'm told that you have been

To see this man." [Jenny: "What man?"] Mistress: "Why you have seen

The Young PRETENDER, hussy, at his lodging. Is it not so? Come tell me without dodging."

Jenny: "Why really, madam, I was passing by, Thinking no harm, not in the least, not I, And somebody or other that I met—"

Mistress: "What somebody?" Jenny: "Indeed now, I forget,

Said, what a handsome man he was—and so Begging your pardon, madam, I did go;

But had no ill intention in the thing, A cat may look, as folks say, at a King."

And so the dialogue goes on, but at too great length to quote for this purpose,—the mistress expressing her great horror at what might follow, popery and the rest, should Charley ever be king; and the maid as stoutly contending for the attractiveness of his person. Towards the end the mistress becomes somewhat mollified, and Jenny exclaims:—

"Ah! ma'am, you're very good, let me but speak My simple mind, or else my heart will break;
I've such a strange foreboding in my heart,
If you but saw him once we should not part.
Do see him once—what harm is there in seeing?
If, after that, there be not an agreeing,
Then call me twenty rebel sluts—if you,
When you have seen him, be'n't a rebel too!"

There is considerable ingenuity and skill displayed in this little composition, and as it also possesses a local historic interest, it might be well if some one of your numerous contributors could give the name of its author. It would be curious to know likewise something concerning the *Chester Journal*, in which it is said to have first appeared.

Heleby.

W. FARISH.

[880]

BISHOP PEPLow.

Will you please say in what year Peploe was Bishop of Chester?—[1716-52.—ED.]—and, if possible, his native place, and parentage, and whom he married?

S.

Replies.

[881]

ANCIENT AND MODERN CHESTER.

[No. 849.—Oct. 8.]

I read with interest G. A. S.'s note on the above. In some cases the architectural name which Chester has owned for years would soon be obliterated and become a sore subject to future antiquaries and students. These cases are those of tradesmen, whose chief aim, in this money-making age (and wishing to retire from business to be "the gentlemen" mentioned by "A LOVING ANTIQUARY" in No. 851), is to keep the cost down. Such men care not an atom about the outside, so long as the inside of the premises be enticing. These restorers employ a builder to throw together a structure of the meanest external character: the builder has his dummy who, for a consideration, manufactures drawings, I was going to say designs, by the dozens: one, most likely the cheapest, is selected by the client, and the building is put together. Out of the many such instances, we can see a recent example in Foregate-street. On the other hand we have the experience of the architect, who has his fortune to make by design alone, so he strives to make every building he is concerned with alike a credit to his client and himself. We all know what an experienced architect is capable of doing, and the contrast between his work and the dummy's. The COCOA HOUSE in Foregate-street, and another not far distant from it, are opposite instances in point. What a contrast!

J. H.

[882] BOOTH FAMILY OF CHESTER.

[No. 850.—Oct. 8.]

I have in my possession a copy of an old law book which I think is, probably, by the George Booth who deceased in 1719, and to whom there is a monument in St. Oswald's Church, Chester. The book bears the following title:—

"The | LAW | of | REAL ACTIONS: | In which is set forth, at large, | The NATURE of such ACTIONS, | and the PRACTICE therein; | Containing | *The Writs, Counts, Pleadings, Judgments*, and all | Process, both Original and Judicial; | In | a Writ of Right Patent, | | With some RECORDS inserted, particularly relating to the | Court before the Justice of the County Palatine of Chester, proving the | antiquity of that Court, and of some Families there. | By George Booth, Esq; | London: Printed by the Assigns of Richard and Edward Atkins, Esquires; for | A. and J. Churohil, and Sold by Sam. Keble at the Turk's-Head in Fleet street, 1704." |

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

P. M. HERFORD.

[883] JEMMY'S BOAT.

[No. 861.—Oct. 15.]

Your correspondent "L. L." in THE SHEAF asks who "JEMMY at the Boat was?" That neighbourhood being my native place, I can answer his question. His name was JAMES HARNETT, and he came there (to the Boat, which had been removed from about two miles higher up, close under EATON HALL) about the latter end of the last century. It is only within the last 20 years or so that it has become such a resort for pic-nic parties: such was not known in "Jemmy's" time.

Eaton-road.

ALEX. MACGREGOR.

NOVEMBER 5, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 5.—Puppet Show Explosion in Watergate-street, Chester	1772
„ 7.—Ancient British Fencible Regiment arrived at Chester from service in Ireland	1799
„ 8.—Elizabeth Mary Leveson Gower, 2nd Marchioness of Westminster, born ...	1797
„ 9.—William Chaderton consecrated 5th Bishop of Chester	1579
„ 10.—Shock of an earthquake felt in Chester.	1795
„ 11.—Bishop Chaderton proclaims a thanksgiving in Chester on the destruction of the Spanish Armada	1588

J. H.

Original Documents.

[884] GUNPOWDER PLOT.

The following is a verbatim copy of an entry made in the Register of the Parish Church of NANTWICH in the year 1604:—

"This yeare the Papiats conspired against the King, and the whole state of the land; & for a begining of their wicked enterprise the purposed, vpon the 5 day of nouember, to haue blowne vp the parliament house in the first day of the assembly, wherein they ment to haue dispatched at on Instant, the King, queene, yonge prince, nobles, And both states spirituall & temporall. but all their plott was discover'd and the cheife taken, but 12 houres before ye tyme of ye murther pretended. blessed be god therefore. Such is the fruits of popish Religion."

Nantwich.

FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

[885] THE PUPPET SHOW EXPLOSION, 1772.

A hundred and seven years ago this day, there happened the most terrible calamity ever recorded in our CHESTER annals. The gabled front of the premises where the accident occurred is still standing, next door but three to the westward of BISHOP LLOYD'S HOUSE, in Watergate-street; and the passage at its side, leading into Commonhall-street, still bears popularly the name of the Puppet Show Entry. The *Chester Courant*, of Nov. 10, says:—

"On Nov. the 5th, a few minutes before nine o'clock in the evening, the inhabitants of this city were greatly alarmed by a loud unusual noise, attended with a shaking of the ground, which everyone imagined to proceed from an earthquake. But the news soon arrived that a large number of people, assembled at a puppet-show, had been blown up by gunpowder, placed in a grocer's warehouse which was under the room. Amidst the universal consternation and confusion, occasioned by this dreadful calamity, it happened most fortunately that some gentlemen had repaired to the melancholy scene a few minutes after the accident; who gave particular directions that every person who shewed the least signs of life should be immediately carried to the Infirmary, where the physicians and surgeons would be ready to administer every possible means of relief. The number admitted that night was 33, and 20 since, in all 53. Besides 23 dead, and these 53 Hospital patients, there appear to be about 30 more in the town who have received some degree of injury. in the shape of slight contusions and burns,—in all about 106."

I have searched the files in the City Muniment room at the Town Hall, and have come upon the original Inquisition held on the dead bodies found in the ruins.

It runs as follows:—

"City of Chester and

County of the same City—to wit.

An Inquisition taken at the Inner Pentice of the said City of Chester, on Saturday, the Seventh day of November, in the 13th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the third, King of Great Britain, &c., And in the year of our Lord, 1772. Before Thomas Craven, one of his Majesty's Coroners for the County of the City of Chester aforesaid, upon Sight of the Dead Bodys of Elizabeth Hale, Elizabeth French, Anne Peers, George Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Kendrick Eaton, Elizabeth Cooke, John Merrijohn, Edward Powell, James Harrison, Elizabeth Allen, John Lawranson, Timothy Garner, John Hewitt, Mary Ankers, Esther Jones, William Roberts, Elizabeth Williams, and Robert Williams.

Upon the Oath of Thomas Bennion, Hatter, Robert Yoxall, Smith, Robert Fletcher, Cordwainer, Jonathan Taylor, Combmaker, John Griffith, Breeches-maker, John Sproston, Cooper, John Cross, Turner, John Simons, Flaxdresser, Charles Haswell, Breeches-maker, Thomas Shepard, Brewer, William Spence, Cordwainer, and Thomas Lawton, Barber, good and Lawful Men of the County of the said City; who being Charged to Inquire how and by what means the several persons beforementioned, now lying dead, came to their Death, Do say upon their Oath, That the said several Persons hereinbefore Particularly named and described, on the fifth day of this Instant November, being assembled with divers other Persons in a certain Room, called "Eaton's Room," situate in the Watergate Street, in the said City, to see a PUPPET SHOW, were blown up and killed by the Accidental Explosion of some gunpowder which was Deposited in a [Vault (crossed out)] Warehouse under the said Room. And the Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid Say, That the said several Persons herein before mentioned and described came by their Death by Accident and the Means aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors have put their Hands and Seals, the day and year first above written.

© THOS. CRAVEN. Signatures and Seals of
the 12 Jurors."

Funeral Sermons were preached in the various churches and chapels of the city, and a Poem (now very scarce) was written and published in commemoration of the sad event. A large sum of money was raised for the relief of the sufferers and the families of the deceased.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[886] FRENCH BARBERS AT A DISCOUNT.

From an old scrap-book belonging to one of my family, and put together, I should imagine, between the years 1790 and 1810, I copy out from the original a

quaint little placard or handbill, which you may probably think worth preserving:—

"**L**ADIES may have their Hair Cut and Dressed, quite in a new taste, at reasonable Rates, by applying to B. W. Professor; &c., at the *Cat-and-Bag-Pipe* near the *Yatch* in *Watergate Street, Chester.*

N.B.—No *Frenchman*, upon Honour."

There is no date appended to the handbill, but the N.B. at the end shows it to have been issued during the French war-scare at the beginning of the century. "B. W.," our self-styled "Professor," was apparently suspected of being a Gallican (a most unpopular nationality just then in England); an imputation which, from his sign of the "Cat and Bag-pipe," he seeks heartily to disclaim. M. L. T.

[887]

THE GOLDEN CITY.

The perusal of the note upon "The Golden City" naturally took me to *Hemingway*, to find some account of the representatives of Chester in Parliament. I gather from his pages how JOHN RADCLIFFE and WILLIAM INCE are supposed to have been our members when King Charles II. came to his own again. The latter was soon afterwards succeeded by Sir THOMAS SMITH, Knt.; but both he and Mr. Radcliffe died in the same year, and WILLIAM WILLIAMS and ROBERT WERDEN were elected to fill their places. *Hemingway* says in another place that Colonel Werden opposed Mr. Williams, and beat him; but this probably refers to some other election; perhaps when he was returned with Sir Thomas Grosvenor somewhat later on. In the very same year that he is said to have been returned with Mr. Williams, Colonel Werden was replaced by Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart.; who was the first of his family that sat for Chester, and he seems to have been re-elected afterwards in conjunction with Mr. Williams: but the very next year ROGER WHITLEY got his seat, and, I suppose, kept it to the end of the "Merry Monarch's" reign.

1 James 2nd. Sir Thomas Grosvenor and Robert Werden were the members, but when the next election took place—

4 James 2nd. Roger Whitley and GEORGE MAINWARING sat for the city.

1 William and Mary. Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Bart., and RICHARD LEVINGE carried the two seats, defeating Whitley and Mainwaring; the numbers at the close of the poll being—Grosvenor, 498; Levinge, 494; Whitley, 484; and Mainwaring, 457.

7 William 3rd. Sir Thomas Grosvenor and Roger Whitley were the chosen members.

10 William 3rd. Sir Thomas Grosvenor and PETER SHAKERLEY.

12 William 3rd. Sir HENRY BUNBURY and Peter Shakerley; and they were afterwards re-elected six times in succession, and sat together for Chester to the end of Queen's Anne's reign.

1 George 1st., and again in the eighth year of the same Sovereign, Sir Henry Bunbury and Sir RICHARD GROSVENOR were chosen; but in the—

1 George 2nd., Sir Richard Grosvenor and THOMAS GROSVENOR, Esq., were the lucky possessors of the seats, that being the first occasion when the two seats fell into the Grosvenor family. Sir Richard died in July, 1732, when ROBERT GROSVENOR, Esq., was chosen in his place; and Thomas Grosvenor dying in the following January, the vacated seat fell into the hands of Sir CHARLES BUNBURY, Bart. They were re-elected 8 Geo. 2nd., and again in the 15th year of the same monarch; but Sir Charles died in 1742, and PHILIP HENRY WARBURTON (son to the celebrated Matthew Henry) was chosen in his place. In 1747 there was a hot contest for the seat, the candidates being:—Sir Robert Grosvenor, who polled 1049 votes; Philip Henry Warburton, who polled 928; and JAMES MAINWARING, who polled 758. The two first-named were returned, but a petition was presented against Mr. Warburton; the House, however, rejecting its prayer by 191 votes to 92.

27 George 2nd. Sir Robert Grosvenor and RICHARD GROSVENOR, Esq., were carried; but Sir Robert dying in Aug. 1755, his place was taken by THOMAS GROSVENOR, Esq.

1 George 3rd. Thomas Grosvenor, and RICHARD WILBRAHAM BOOTLE were the members chosen, and they were re-elected four times in succession: but in the 1784 Election Mr. OFFLEY CREWE, of Bolesworth, stood as a candidate for the city; he was defeated however, the voting being, Grosvenor, 718; Bootle, 626; Crewe, 480.

30th George 3rd. Thomas Grosvenor, Esq., and ROBERT, VISCOUNT BELGRAVE, were elected. The former died in 1795, and his place was taken by another THOMAS GROSVENOR. They were re-elected 36th of George 3rd; and again in the 40th year of the same reign; but, in 1802, Lord Belgrave succeeded his father in the peerage, and his vacated seat was taken by RICHARD EARLE DRAX GROSVENOR. The two old members were re-elected, 47th George III.; but at the end of that Parliament Mr. Drax Grosvenor retired, and then, what is known as the Grosvenor and Egerton struggle, commenced. By a sort of "understanding" between the two rival parties, open warfare was avoided for that time, Thomas Grosvenor and JOHN EGERTON (of Oulton) being returned together unopposed.

G. A. S.

(For completion, see next week.)

Queries.

[888] THE ESTUARY OF THE DEE.

What is the scientific limit of the estuary of the Dee, and to what point above the weir at Chester does an ordinary spring-tide reach? I mean of course the actual tide, and not the back-water, which recedes no doubt much nearer to the source.

L. L.

[889] ROBERT FRECKLETON.

A clergyman of this name is said to have taken refuge in the Garrison of Chester during the Civil War troubles; and having compromised himself in some way for the King's party, was on the Reduction of the city by Sir William Brereton punished by the dominant faction with Sequestration, or some such pains and penalties. What are the facts of this case, and what became of the poor parson when the political storm had blown by?

CAMBRIDGE-BRITON.

[890] BLACON CROSS.

I have just met with a reference to the above in a document of the 17th century. Is there any such place now known in the neighbourhood, and is there any evidence of a stone cross having ever occupied the site?

M. O. Y.

[891] MAYS OF HERRINGS.

In a note relative to Chester, Flint, and Rhuddlan Castles, recently communicated to THE SHEAF [vide No. 867, Oct. 22] by Mr. Henry Taylor, there is mention of a purchase for the use of the garrisons at these places, of certain "mays of herrings." This term "may" is manifestly an ancient weight or measure, and perhaps peculiar to the sale of this class of fish; but I find no trace of the name in the present day. Will some correspondent more learned than I kindly unravel the point?

G. T.

Replies.

[892] EPITAPH AT INCH.

[Nos. 821, 846, 854, 873.—Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 8, 22.]

A few years ago I copied the Blacksmith's Epitaph at Lincoln Cathedral, referred to by Mr. Earwaker in No. 873 of THE SHEAF.

The "tombstone" exists as a mural tablet on the exterior wall of the South Aisle of the Nave. It records the name of the smith, and the day of his death. Unfortunately, however, from decay of the stone, part having peeled off many years ago, some of the epitaph is now wanting. The verger of the Cathedral completed the verse for me, as he remembered to have seen it; and supplied the word "sledge" in the

first line, where the extract from the "New Universal Magazine" for December, 1748, gives "*stithy*" [*i.e.*, anvil]. The latter, no doubt, being the correct word, I have used it in supplying the obliterated part, given below in square brackets.

"In Memory of

David Fletcher, smith
to this Church, who died
Feb. the 14. 1744. Aged 48 yrs.

[My stithy] and Hammer lye declined
[My bellows] too have lost their Wind
[My Fire's extingui]sh't, Forge decay'd
[And in the dust] my Vice is laid
[My coal is spent], my Iron gone
[My last nail's d]riven, my Work is done."

Hence, according to the extract quoted by Mr. Karwaker from the above-mentioned Magazine, David Fletcher, of Lincoln, must be credited with the authorship of this curious rhyme, unless, indeed, some earlier instance of the epitaph can be found.

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAS. HALL.

[893] ERBISTOCK.

[Nos. 823, 855, 874.—Sept. 17, Oct. 8, 23.]

The late Rev. T. JAMES, LL.D., F.S.A., Vicar of Netherthong, writing to *Bye-gones*, Oct. 16, 1878, on this subject, said:—

"*Erbistock*.—*Erbi*, the first part of this local name, is supposed to be identical with *Erby*, or *Irby* and *Ireby*. It is of uncommon occurrence and uncertain signification. The few instances in which *Irby* and *Ireby* occur are localities contiguous to rivers, or low, or fenny districts."

Dr. James then went on to give as examples, *Irby*, Cheshire; *Irby-in-the-Marsh* and *Irby-upon-Humber*, Lincolnshire; *Ireby*, Cumberland; and *Ireby*—in Domesday Book, *Irebi*—Lancashire. And he further argues that

"As *Erbistock* is situated on the banks of the Dee, the name may be expressive of its situation. The way in which it is written in Domesday Book relating to Denbighshire, is *Erpistock*, which affords no clue to the signification of the first part, *Erbi*. *Stock*, the latter part, is the English form of the Anglo-Saxon *stoc*, which signifies a place, an enclosure, a wood, as in *Stockholm*, *Stockland*, *Calstock*, *Tavistock*, and *Woodstock*."

Dr. James's note, I may remark, called forth no discussion.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

[894] ANCIENT LIBRARY AT CHESTER.

[No. 869.—Oct. 23.]

In Le Keux's *Memorials of Cambridge*, edition of 1841, vol. i., page 37, in the account of ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, appears the following paragraph, extracted from the Life of BISHOP FISHER of Rochester:—

"He had the noblest library of books in all England, two long galleries full: the books were sorted in stalls, and a register of all the names of

everybody at the end of every stall. All these his books, and all his hangings, plate, and vessels for hall, chamber, buttery, and kitchen, he gave long before his death to ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE by a deed of gift, and put them in possession thereof; and then, by indenture, did borrow all the said books and stuff, to have the use of them during his life: but at his apprehension, the Lord CROMWELL caused all to be confiscated, which he gave to MORISON PLANCKNEY, of CHESTER, and other that were about him, and so the college was defrauded of all this noble gift."

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

T. C. H.

[895]

BISHOP PEPLOR.

[No. 880.—Oct. 29.]

SAMUEL PEPLOR was born in Shropshire in the year 1668. He was educated at Penkridge, in the same county, and afterwards at Jesus College, Oxford. He was successively Rector of Kedleston, near Derby, and Vicar of Preston, in Lancashire. During the rebellion in 1715, he distinguished himself by his ardent attachment to the cause of King George the First. He was rewarded for his loyalty by being appointed to succeed Dr. Wroe as Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester. On the death of Bishop Gastrell, in 1726, he was nominated to the See of Chester. His consecration took place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, April 26, 1726. He died at Chester, February 21, 1752. Bishop Peploe was twice married. His first wife was Anne, daughter of Thomas Brown, of Shredicote, in Staffordshire, by whom he had four children—one son, Samuel, who was Chancellor of Chester; and three daughters—Mary, wife of Francis Jodrell, of Yeadsley; Anne, wife of James Bayley, Registrar of the Diocese of Chester; and Elizabeth, wife of John Bradshaw, of Manchester. The Bishop married for his second wife Anne, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Birch, M.A., his immediate predecessor in the Vicarage of Preston. In the Choir of Chester Cathedral there is a handsome monument for Bishop Peploe, composed of Derbyshire marble, with the following inscription:—

Juxtâ dormit,
beatam expectans resurrectionem,
reverendus admodum in Christo Pater
Samuel Peploe, S.T.P.
olim ecclesiæ Kedlestoniæ prope Derbiam rector,
tum vicarius Prestonensis in agro Lancastriæ,
mox optimo favente principe,
Collegii Mancuniensis guardianus;
reliquos deinde, quos plurimes produxit, annos,
episcopus Cestriensis.
Ampliora adeo non cupide expectavit, ut
ultra oblati carere mallet.
Qualis erat, supremus dies indicabit.
Obiit 21mo die Februarii,
Anno salutis humanæ

MDCCLII.

ætatis suæ

LXXXIV.

Bishop Peploe published the following occasional Sermons:—

Assize of the Rebels. 1716. 8vo.

* Annual Meeting of the London and Westminster Charity Schools at St. Sepulchre's, April 2. 1730. 4to.

Popish Idolatry, a strong Reason why all Protestants should zealously oppose the Rebellion. 1745. 4to.

* God's Peculiar Care in the Preservation of our Religion and Liberties. An assize sermon. Lond. 1716. 8vo.

* A Sermon Preach'd before the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in the Abbey-church, Westminster, Jan. 30, 1720. Lond. 1733. Pp. 27.

Copies of the sermons marked with an asterisk are in the Manchester Free Reference Library.

Gatley-road, Cheadle.

P. M. H.

None of the biographical notices of the Bishop, that we have seen in print, give precisely the information desired by "S." But as, from the tenor of his note and query, an immediate Reply appears important to him, we are glad to be in a position, chiefly through the kindness of our valued friend COL. CHESTER, to give him the facts he asks for.

"Samuel Peploe matriculated at Oxford, from Jesus College, 12 May, 1687, aged 18, as son of Padmore Peploe, of Dawley parish, co. Salop, paying the fees of a Plebeian's son. He was B.A. 12 March, 1690, and M.A. 19 Oct. 1693."

He is stated to have received his grammar-school education at Penkridge in the county of Stafford; and it appears, from the following Matriculation record at Oxford, that he was in 1720 either curate or incumbent of the same parish. For this entry we are also indebted to Col. Chester:—

"SAMUEL PEPLON matriculated from Jesus College 19 Feb. 1719-20, aged 18, as son of Samuel Peploe, Clerk, of Penrich [? Penkridge] co. Stafford. He was B.C.L., as of Wadham College, 29 Oct. 1726, and D.C.L., 2 July, 1763."

It will interest "S.," and perhaps certain other of our readers as well, to have the following extracts from the Burial Registers of Chester Cathedral place d upon record:—

"The Right Reverend Father in God, Samuel Peploe, Lord Bishop of Chester, Aged 85, buried Feb. 28, 1752."

"Ann Peploe, Relict of the late Right Revd. Lord Bishop of Chester, buried Jan. 20, 1758."

Of Samuel Peploe the son, chancellor of the diocese, and a Prebendary of the Cathedral, it is perhaps unnecessary to say more here, than that he was buried in the grave of his father and stepmother on October 30, 1781, where also the remains of his wife had been deposited just two years previously.

EDITOR.

NOVEMBER 12, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 12.—Parliamentary forces defeated on Stamford Heath	1643
„ 13.—Edward III., Royal Earl of Chester, born at Windsor	1312
„ 14.—Lady Beatrice Cavendish (née Grosvenor) born	1858
„ 15.—John Wilkins, brother-in-law of Cromwell, consecrated Bishop of Chester..	1668
„ 16.—Ralph, 3rd Abbot of Chester, died	1157
„ 17.—John Ratcliffe, son of a Chester Alderman, chosen Recorder of Chester.....	1646
„ 18.—Judge Bearcroft, of Chester, died.....	1796

J. H.

Original Documents.

[896] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS,
No. XII.

POPISH RECUSANTS DISARMED.

(Continued from No. 774, Aug. 18.)

The peremptory Order sent down from the Court on Nov. 24th had probably been put partly into execution by the Deputy Lieutenants; but it seems not unlikely that the carrying out of the Order to imprison those suspected of Disaffection had been delayed. And as events turned out, it was just as well. Things on the whole looked more promising in the north for the royal cause; and the following Letter from the Lord Lieutenant was dispatched from Wigan just four days after the last named Order was received in the county:

"My Lord and Gentlemen,

This day I have received from my Lord Arlington his Ma'ties further commands (A Copy whereof is heer inclosed), to forbear at present the Execu'on of his Ma'tys l're of the 27th past, the w'ch I desire you punctually to observe, and remayne,

My Lord and Gentlemen

Yo'r aff'tt Friend & Serv'tt

DERBY.

Wigan, 7th December
1668."

"The letter of the 24th past, touching the disarming of popish recusants, you are to proceed upon effectually.

DERBY."

Addressed

"For the Right Hon'ble Robert Lord Cholmondeley and the Rest of my Deputy Lieuten'ts for the County Pallatine of Chester."

Meanwhile came the weak and illadvised rising of the Presbyterians in the North, and their almost instantaneous annihilation at Pentland Hill on the 28th of November. News of their dispersion soon reached the Court; and more moderate counsels at once prevailed with respect to the Recusants, and with such of the opposite extreme in the county as had not been openly allied with the Rebels. Lord Arlington now writes to the Earl of Derby:—

"Whitehall, Decem[.....] 1686."

My Lord,

His Ma'ty haueing receaued the happy newes of the dissipating and beating the Rebels in Scotland, com'ands mee to Signifie his pleasure to your Lo'pp, that for the present you forbear the executing the Commands hee gave you in his l're of the 27th past, for the Seoureing and taking into Custody all disaffected persons in your Lieutenantacy; unless it bee such as you upon strong presumptions may conclude to haue been in any confederacy or correspondence with the said Rebels, whom you are to cause to bee detain'd & strictly examined upon that matter, & to give account to his Ma'tie of what you shall discouerre thereupon.

I am, with all respect,

My Lord,

Yo'r Lo'pps most humble serv'tt,
ARLINGTON.

Endorsed on back

"For his Ma'ties Special Service.

To the R't Hon'ble

My Lord, the Earle of Derby, Lord

Lieutenant of the Counties Lancashire & Cheshire
at Lathom

Arlington.

in Lancashire."

Running one day with the Puritan hare, and the next with the Popish hounds, was the ruling folly of the Ministry at that period, and was a fatal characteristic of both Charles the Second and his unpopular brother James.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[897]

REV. THOMAS ALCOCK.

In *The Ecclesiastical History of Old Plymouth*, by J. Brooking Rowe, F.S.A. (Plymouth, 1876), is a curious notice of this clergyman; and as the book was not published, but printed for private circulation, I have thought the notice worth printing in *THE SHEAF*.

Writing of St. Budeaux, Mr. Rowe states:—

"In November, 1732, there is a note in the register—'I, THOMAS ALCOCK, came to be vicar or minister of St. BUDEAUX; appointed by the then vicar of St. Andrew, John Gilbert.' His licence is dated 20th December, 1733. * * * THOMAS ALCOCK was in many ways a remarkable man, and up to a

recent period his doings and peculiarities were referred to with much zest by old inhabitants. He was a native of RUNCORN, in Cheshire, the living of which, for some time previously to his death, he held, with St. BUDEAUX. He was a curate at Stonehouse before his appointment to St. Budeaux, his licence being dated 30th December, 1731. With the exception of a few of the latter years, he spent all his life here, and married the Earnesetle heiress, Maria Harwood, and with her became entitled to a great deal of property in the parish.

He was much liked in spite of his eccentric habits. Perhaps his omission to collect tithes had something to do with his popularity. He was priest, doctor, and lawyer. On Easter Monday the parish accounts and those of the charities would be settled up, and the balance, if any, would be divided among the residents of the almshouses. He would always then give a pint of beer and a bun to every old woman in the parish, and (I scarcely like to mention it) fight a cock, which he invariably brought with him! He also wagered a shilling on the event, but never exceeded this sum. My informant, in a tone of regret, added that Mr. ALCOCK could never be induced to fight more than one cock. He would always dine with the farmers, and, after having had one glass of grog, retire.

He had a great fancy for possessing land, and once, when authorized to buy a small estate as an investment for moneys, the greater part of which had been collected for a charitable object, having purchased it as he considered at a low price, he could not be induced to part with it: and when at last he made up his mind to convey it to trustees, he credited himself with having contributed £300 to the fund, that being the difference between the price he had paid and his estimated value of the property. * * * The estate is still held by the trustees, and is situate in Penny-cross, near Plymouth. He lived in the most simple way. Before his marriage he lodged at a farm, but after that event he kept house for himself, without altering his former habits. From the house, it is said, every article of modern convenience was excluded. His drawing-room was a poor bed-chamber, with walls that once were whitewashed, and where nothing appeared in opposition to their simplicity. Here he boiled his coffee, toasted his cakes, and entertained his guests at the same time; who forgot in the charms of his conversation the wretched apartment they were in, and the yellow, time-worn bed on which some of them were perhaps obliged to sit instead of a sofa.* His wife died in 1777, and is buried in the north aisle of the church, where may be seen a stone with a Latin inscription, written by her husband. He also took the opportunity of preaching a funeral sermon, the Sunday after her funeral, from Ezekiel xxiv., 8.

But it must not be supposed that there was anything sordid about Mr. ALCOCK; although he was very penurious, he was a gentleman, kind and chari-

* Northcote's *Life of Reynolds*, vol. i. p. 303.

table to the poor, a brilliant scholar, an eloquent preacher. "His sermons abounded with Latin and Greek quotations, and passages from the English poets; and the treasures of his extensive private correspondence were frequently quoted to his congregations at St. Budeaux, and particularly at Plymouth. When Sir Joshua Reynolds gave his portrait to the Corporation of Plympton, Mr. Alcock presented to the painter the following distich;

"Laudet Romanus .Raphaelem, Græcus
Apellem, Plympton Reynoldem jactat, utrique
parem."

But Sir Joshua declined to have these lines placed on the portrait as their author wished.

He wrote several pamphlets, but no work of any importance. The only production of his that I have seen is a life of his brother, Dr. NATHAN ALCOCK; a well-written and interesting biography. He was fond of farming, and at Ernesettle indulged in it to some extent. He was much interested in the manufacture of cider; and in 1763 published his observations on that part of an Act of Parliament which imposed an additional duty thereon. In 1767, Dr. Baker created much excitement among the lovers of cider, and those interested in its production and sale, by tracing a disease which appears to have been then an epidemic in Devonshire and elsewhere, to the use of cider: many tracts were written by local medical men and others, and much controversy ensued, in which Mr. ALCOCK joined, and published three or four pamphlets. One point much made of by Mr. Baker in his crusade against cider was the presence of lead which he had detected in it, and which he said arose either in the process of the manufacture, or from the vessels in which it was prepared. Having taken some bottled cider, he analysed it, and succeeded in discovering some round particles of lead. This did not satisfy Mr. ALCOCK, and making an analysis for himself, he was unable to discover a trace of lead in any cider which he could procure. At length he made up his mind as to the theory of Dr. Baker, and in 1769 he published his "*Endemical Colic of Devonshire not caused by a solution of lead in the cyder*"; in which he proved that the particles of lead found by Dr. Baker came not from the cider, or from the vessels in which it was prepared, but were only the remains of the small shot used in cleansing the bottles!

In the same year, 1769, the vicarage of St. ANDREW [Plymouth] was vacant, and Mr. ALCOCK was a candidate, and fully expected to have been elected. He was, however, unsuccessful, and was much disappointed and annoyed at his failure. He vented his displeasure upon his more fortunate rival, Mr. Gandy, by refusing to preach the Wednesday sermon at St. Andrew's again, although he had before done so with much pleasure during the whole time he had been at St. Budeaux. He persevered in his refusal, and during the rest of his life never again

set foot in St. Andrew's Church. From that time also it would appear that he claimed an independent position, subscribed himself as vicar, and stated that by virtue of his holding certain lands the right of presentation to the church was in him.

At the age of 78 he again married, and a few years after returned to his native place—BUNCORN, at which time he must have been about 90 years of age; and there he died, in 1798. After leaving St. Budeaux he wrote to the Rev. Vallaack, a relative of the present vicar of St. Budeaux, and enclosed the following couplet on his last view of the church he had served so long:—

'O tu Budæi veneranda Ecclesia Sancti,
Forte mihi post hæc non adeunda, vale.'

(iij. pp. 18-22.)

Buckland Brewer, Devon.

J. I. DREDGE.

[898] MARLING IN CHESHIRE, 1735.

As this was once considered the mainstay of the arable land of Cheshire, and was universally practised,—now that it has become completely disused, owing to the enhanced value of labour, and the discovery and introduction of more portable manures, the particulars of the process and cost, as taken from an account of 1735, may not be unsuitable for THE SHEAF:—

"By marling ye Ox pasture."

"By lading and slutching 26 Dayes & $\frac{1}{2}$ at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a Day	1	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
By marling p'r ye day 9 dayes at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day	0	7	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
By 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rood at 10s. a Rood	2	15	0
By Cash given ye men	0	4	0
By Drawing 5 & $\frac{1}{2}$ Rood at 10s.	2	15	0
By six dayes drawing fea and marl at 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day	0	15	9
By allowance maid Jno. Pedley	0	3	0
By Beefe at finishing	0	3	10
By setting 5 & $\frac{1}{2}$ Rood at 1s. 8d. Rood... ..	0	9	2
By setting 3 dayes at 5d. a day	0	1	3
	<hr/> £8 18 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " <hr/>		

The "Ox Pasture" was 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and if the whole of it was covered, the cost would be at the rate of about 20s. an acre.

The "lading and slutching" refers, no doubt, to the preparatory clearing out the water and mud of an old pit to get at the marl.

The 4s. "given the men" would be a Douceur—"part of £1000"—for which the donor would receive the usual ovation of an oration and cheer from the marlers, all joining hands in a ring.

The "fea" is the soil covering the marl head, which had to be first removed.

"Setting" is the spreading of the marl over the land.

Tushingham.

B. LL. V.

[899] THE GOLDEN CITY.

(Concluded from No. 887.)

In 1812 (53rd of George the Third) the two houses of Eaton and Oulton came to an open rupture, and a fierce contest ensued,—General Thomas Grosvenor, and Sir RICHARD BROOKE, being the candidates on one side; John Egerton, and EDWARD V. TOWNSHEND, on the other. General Grosvenor and Mr. Egerton were in the result re-elected, the voting being:—Grosvenor, 627; Egerton, 602; Brooke, 575; Townshend, 537.

The last Election in "Farmer George's" reign took place in 1818, when General Grosvenor, and RICHARD VISCOUNT BELGRAVE, stood together, against Sir John Egerton, and Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS. The two first named were carried by a large majority, the voting being:—Belgrave, 813; Grosvenor, 787; Egerton, 607; Williams, 523; and thus the Grosvenors became the acknowledged masters of the situation.

We do not propose to dwell upon the contest of 1820, when the old members were returned again; but shall close this paper by quoting out of Mr. Salisbury's "Border Counties Worthies," the account he gives of this great struggle, under the heading of 'Sir John Egerton.' He says:—

"Egerton, Sir John Grey, Bart., of Oulton Park near Chester, has a peculiar claim to distinction among the Borderers, not only as a representative of one of the oldest families in the county, but for the noble stand he made for the political independence of the City of Chester. The Grosvenors of Eaton had long exercised an overwhelming influence in the representation of that city in Parliament. Their local connection with the place, their great wealth, and above all, their munificent support of every local institution, had naturally secured for them a power that few could expect to destroy. It is fair to say they had claims upon the constituency of no common character, and that the members of their house did honestly and honourably express in Parliament the prevailing opinions of the city; but, in that place, as in every other town in the kingdom, where free opinion is supposed to prevail, large bodies of people were to be met with who fairly enough wished to assume some control in the choice of members to represent them in Parliament. In the year 1807, Mr. Drax Grosvenor, who had sat in Parliament with General Grosvenor, as member for the city, announced his intention to retire, and Colonel Hanmer, a stranger to the place, was nominated by the Grosvenors as his successor. This innocent, but ill-advised arrangement, aroused the feelings of the citizens to offer a decided opposition to it; and a compact body of them resolved to resent this seeming dictation of the Grosvenors, by nominating a candidate of their own. Party politics had nothing to do with the matter, it was purely a struggle for independence. Sir John—then Mr. Egerton—was chosen as the popular candidate. He

knew how expensive, and even doubtful, the result of a struggle with the Grosvenors must be, nor is there the slightest reason for believing that he was desirous at that time of obtaining a seat in Parliament. The acceptance of the invitation sent to him was an act of patriotism deserving of all honour: and it is equally to the honour of the Grosvenors, that at a time when their influence was paramount in the city, they so far respected the declared wishes of their neighbours, as to resolve to withdraw Col. Hanmer, and to allow General Grosvenor and Mr. Egerton to be returned unopposed. This is not the place to dwell on all that followed that election. It is sufficient to say that when, in 1812, Parliament was again dissolved, the Grosvenors determined to start a second candidate in opposition to Mr. Egerton. The struggle was a terrible one: for eleven successive days (with the intervention of Sunday), it was carried on regardless of cost, but in the end the old members were again returned. To the Grosvenors, with their immense wealth, the frightful expenses incurred were as nothing, but to Mr. Egerton it was a serious affair. This noble-minded man heeded it not, in view of the great public service he had rendered to the popular cause. It was hoped that with this election all animosity would end, but it was not to be so; for upon the dissolution of Parliament in 1818, the old fight had to be renewed. Sir John had announced his intention to retire, and Lord Belgrave (Earl Grosvenor's eldest son) intimated that he should become a candidate for the vacated seat: this announcement aroused the Egertonians to the pitch of hostility, and they put pressure upon their candidate to bring him to the poll. How far he could honourably do so in the face of his avowed intention to retire, is not for us to determine; it is enough to say that he consented to stand for the third time, and that in the result he was defeated by a large majority. The expensive contest was followed by a petition against the sitting members, and after a costly enquiry before Parliament the Grosvenors were declared duly elected. Upon the death of George the 3rd, in 1820, there was another contest with a like result—Sir John being beaten by General Grosvenor, by a small majority. In 1825 he died at the early age of 59. His honoured remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people; and it is not too much to say of him, that never was man gathered to his fathers, who left behind him a name more to be revered than did this honourable and greatly beloved PATRIOT."

I have put into capital letters the names of John Radcliffe, William Ince, Sir Thomas Smith, William Williams, Robert Werden, Sir Thomas Grosvenor, Roger Whitley, George Mainwaring, Richard Levinge, Peter Shakerley, Sir Henry Bunbury, Sir Richard Grosvenor, Thomas Grosvenor, Robert Grosvenor, Sir Charles Bunbury, Philip Henry Warburton, James Mainwaring, Richard Grosvenor, Richard Wilbraham Bootle, Offley Crewe, Thomas Grosvenor (General), Richard Earle Drax Grosvenor, Sir Richard Brooke, Richard Viscount Belgrave, Edward V. Townshend, and

John Williams, to distinguish the times when they *first* stood for Chester; and also, in the hope, that someone will give us a short account of each of them. We should know more about them than Mr. Hemingway tells us, seeing how they, one and all, have been so closely identified with the history of "The Golden City."

G. A. S.

Queries.

[900] THE CONY-GREENS, CHESTER.

Can any one versed in the mysteries of the old tithe-maps give me the precise locality of this small plot of ground which, I gather, is somewhere within the precincts of Chester? Two hundred years or so ago it was described as being a little more than an acre in extent; but it is possibly in the present day covered with houses, and has most likely lost all trace of its ancient name.

T. T.

[901] DR. ALLEN PENINGTON

was a medical practitioner of some eminence in Chester in the reign of James II., and I have occasionally met with his name professionally and otherwise in our local annals. I should like to know something more of him and his family.

H. S. A.

Replies.

[902] PARKGATE.

[Nos. 656, 845.—May 14, Oct. 1.]

The cottage at the west end of the shore at PARKGATE, on the little hillock, was the habitation of a very original character and a Parkgate celebrity, named Byley, who resided several years there with his wife. They neither had family nor servants. He had been on the stage, amongst many other places, in Manchester, and used occasionally to go there to act, after he first came to the cottage, which he called his "castle."

During the summer months, when PARKGATE was full and many families of great respectability were lodging there for the bathing season, RYLEY used to give a series of entertainments at the "Parkgate Theatre," which was situated in the lane above the Union Hotel, now held by Mrs. Acton. The theatre had formerly been the herring house, when herrings were abundant at Parkgate and Government gave a bounty for curing them.

RYLEY's hand-bills used to state that his entertainments were under the patronage of the then Sir Thos.

Heeketh or Sir Andrew Corbet, who were constant visitors at the place. A favourite piece of Ryley's he called "His Brooms," in which he exhibited a number of puppets or paste-board figures, making them, by some mechanical process, show the most ridiculous grimaces; whilst he played a violin, and sang a ditty of his own composing, the chorus of which was "Make faces, make faces!" RYLEY and his wife have been many years dead.

Dublin.

W. MONK-GIBBON.

[903] BLACK-WORK IN CHESTER.

[Nos. 776, 835.—Aug. 13, Sept. 24.]

As another illustration, and a local one, of this "funeral-furnishing" term, I transcribe for your readers a letter written by a Chester Innkeeper to a member of my family at the beginning of the century. He treats the grim question in a very business-like sort of way:—

"Chester, May 2nd, 1807.

Sir,

Having had the honour of serving the family, take the liberty of offering my services, and can say that no House in the Kingdom can execute a Black Job in a better stile or on more reasonable terms.

A preference will oblige, Sir,

Your Obed. H'ble Ser't.

Lyon Inn.

THO'S AUSTIN."

I presume the 'Lyon Inn' here referred to was the *White Lion* Hotel, a celebrated coaching and posting house at Chester during the first half of the present century. Your readers will scarcely need to be reminded that this house and its stables occupied one-half the site of the modern Market Hall in Northgate-street.

M. L. T.

[904] GERARD THE HERBALIST.

[No. 870.—Oct. 22.]

In the *Life of John Gerard*, by Benjamin Daydon Jackson, F.L.B.S., in the University Library at CAMBRIDGE, I find the following at the end of an autograph letter of GERARD's, probably drawn up previous to 1596:—

[Endorsed] "John Gerard [an erasure]

A bill (?) of his owne drawing for ye L. Th'er [Burleigh] to signe, to ye University of Cambridge, for planting of garden.

Lansd. MSS., vol. 107, No. 92, fol. 155."

This certainly points to our county herbalist having had at least some connection with this noble University; but I searched Cooper's *Athena Cantabrigienses* and also the List of Graduates of Cambridge, yet found nothing there to throw any light on "A WOODMAN's" query. May I be allowed to add that GERARD was the curator of a Botanical Garden here, of which Dr. Richard Walker's noble gift was the successor in 1762.

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

T. C. H.

[906] THE REBELLION OF 1745.

[No. 879.—Oct. 29]

The author of the lines in reference to the above was JOHN BYROM, M.A., F.R.S., sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He was born at Manchester in 1691, and died in 1763. In consequence of religious scruples he declined entering into holy orders, and resigned his fellowship. He went to reside in France, where he took up the study of physic, but does not appear to have practised. In early life he imbibed certain tenets of the Mystics, but his writings prove that he possessed sterling sense and native wit. The piece which your correspondent met with in the *CHESTER JOURNAL* is entitled "A Genuine Dialogue in the beginning of December, 1745," vol. 1., page 122, of his works.

Aston.

E. MARSDEN.

NOVEMBER 19, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 19.—John Wilkins, 14th Bishop of Chester, died	1672
„ 20.—William de Bebington, 15th Abbot of Chester, died	1349
„ 22.—Thomas Mainwaring, of Over Peover, Esq., created Baronet	1660
„ 24.—Churchyard walls of St. Mary's Church, Chester, taken down (being Sunday) for fear of attack from the Rebel army	1745
„ 25.—Richard, 2nd Norman Earl of Chester, (son of Hugh Lupus) drowned off coast of Normandy	1120
J. H.	

Original Documents.

[906] A NESTON YEOMAN'S WILL.

Very little is known of the parish or the church of GREAT NESTON in the 15th and 16th centuries; save that in the middle of the 15th the former passed from the Earls of Salisbury to the Stanleys, and that, towards the close of the 16th, it fell from William Stanley, Earl of Derby, to William Whitmore of Leighton, "in satisfaction of a gaming debt!"

One of the earliest Wills preserved in the Registry of Chester is that of a NESTON man, not probably a large landed proprietor, but rather in the position of a leading

yeoman or farmer. The Will contains some interesting points relating to the Parish Church, and deserves, I think, to be printed in its entirety. It reads verbatim as follows:—

"Test'n thome haward, p'bat p' . . . de Wirrall . . . february mccccxxv'to (1525)

In Dei no'ie Amen. The vijth Day of January in ye yer' of o'r lord god m'ccccxxv'to. I, Thom's haward, hole in mynd and secke in body, make my last Will and testament in man' and forme folowing. furst, I beqweth my sowle to allmyghtye god, to his mother o'r blessid lady and to all the sanctes of hevyn, And my Body to be Buried in the church yord of Neston, and my Best beast to be my p'ncipall or mortuarye. Also I beqweth half my goodes and catalles to gilbart haward, that is to say the half of money, corne and catell, And also I beqweth to ye said gilbartt my grettist pott, my Jacke and sallett, my plogh and my cartt. And I will that Elisabeth Anyon schall hane ye ou'sight and ord'ynge of the said gilbartt and ye forsaide goodes and catell to him Beqwethed. Also I beqweth to ye said elisabeth Anyon ij schettis ij oon' letta A blankett & xs in money Also a kow and vj bushells of barley. Also I Beqweth to Will'm Anyon A Kowe and iij schepe. Also I beqweth to thom's halooke A kow and iij schepe. Also I beqweth to s' Will'm heeken vjs viijd, and iij busshell barley. Also I beqweth to Alice Anyon half of ye residew of my beastes & schepe & A pott. Also I beqweth vjs viijd toward ye bying of a vestmentt, And to amend itt att ye saying of ye said s' Will'm. Also I beqweth to thom's Anyon v bushellis of barley. Also I gif and beqweth to edmu'd elooke an ox that he hath in his hands. Also I gif and beqweth to henry Waryng vs. Also I beqweth to saint martyn' A hye of beene to ye keepyng of a light befor him. And to y's my last will and testament to be truly p'formyd and exequuted & fulfilled in all thynges I doe c'stitute and make Thom's Anyon and Edmu'd elooke my execut'rs, and s' William heeken to be ou'seer. And if they will nott be said by hym, then the said s' William to take A mon att his pleasur.' In Wittnes of all the p'misses's' Will'm heeken p'est, Ric' russell, Robert hawke, and oy' moo were p'sent, and called to yis my last Will. Yeven the Day and yer' above wryten."

It will be noted that THOMAS HAWARD the testator asks to be buried in Neston churchyard, and gives his best beast to Sir William Heeken, the parson, as his mortuary fee. He leaves him also a direct legacy of half a mark, and three bushels of barley. Another half is set aside for the purchase of a vestment for the priest's use in the church, and for the mending of it at the dictation or "saying" of his said parson; whom he appoints overseer of his Will, and whose clerly pen was most likely employed in its compilation.

Another curious bequest deserves notice. NESTON old church was dedicated, according to tradition, to "St. Mary and St. Helen;" but here we find the testator leaving "to saint Martyn A hye of beene to ye

keeping of a light before him." It is pretty clear therefore that if the church was not dedicated to him, there was at least a chapel and altar therein that bore the name of St. Martin the bishop, and that a figure of the saint was set up there.

Sir William Hesken's name does not appear in the list of Rectors in Ormerod's *Cheshire*; but in the ancient MS. transcribed by the late Rev. J. Piccope some 30 years ago at Chester, I find the following, showing that the MS., which was undated, was compiled about the same time as the Will, viz., 1525:—

"Rich'us Ledsham, Vicar.

D'n's Willm's Heskin, Curate."

Gilbert Haward seems to have been the testator's son, though not so called by him, and perhaps Elizabeth Anyon was a married sister. The Elcocks were of the family of that name of Stockport and Poole, one of whom married a Waring of Nantwich, which name also occurs in the above Will.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[907]

GAWSWORTH CHURCH.

Whilst lately reading *The Architect and Building Operative* for 1849, I saw several local interesting articles; among which was one relating to the above church, which I considered was worth bringing and embalming a little nearer "home." I have therefore copied it for these columns.

The contributor "W." writes:—

"I send you another leaf out of my sketch-book, being a careful drawing of a curious Sanctus-bell Cot, from Gawsorth Church in Cheshire, a delightful village on the road from Congleton to Macclesfield, about five and a half miles from the former place, and three and a half miles from the latter.

The whole of this church is of one date, and appears to have been erected towards the close of the reign of Henry VII. by the munificence of the ancient family of the Fittons; whose arms and monuments now occupy and adorn the chancel, but which are all of later date than the church itself. It is an excellent and perfect specimen of a church of that period, and though in a state of sad neglect remains unmutated as to its architectural features, these are very fine, although showing evidence of a considerable decline of art, in the execution of the details. It consists simply of a western tower; nave with south porch, and chancel; and there are the remains of an interesting church-yard cross in the usual position on the south side, in the front of the porch, with animal monsters carved on the angles, after the manner of those seen on baptismal fonts, representing the expulsion of evil spirits, symbolical of that ancient sacrament of the Church.

The tower is a fine composition, having angular buttresses, containing niches with rich canopies and pedestals and shafted jambs; and which have originally held statues of saints and martyrs, now destroyed. It has fine base moulds and trails of quatrefoils over the west door (which is square headed), and at the top, under the parapet. In the second stage of the west front is a fine carved niche with its statue; and on the sides are numerous shields of arms of the Fitton family, with foliage carved round them, and also some of the Tudor badges, the rose occurring frequently.

The Porch has some elaborately carved niches over the doorway in a mutilated condition, with good open windows at the sides, and a shafted doorway.

The nave, which has buttresses with pinnacles, is marked off from the chancel by angular buttresses, and has windows with four-centred heads, while those to the chancel are simply pointed. There does not, however, appear to have been any distinct division of the nave and chancel roofs, they being now continued under the same; nor is there the usual stone arch inside, but a timber one cased, which has originally extended over the rood loft, removed in the early part of the last century.

The whole of the exterior abounds with carving, chiefly of a grotesque kind, but of exceeding boldness; the label terminations being large and curious, and the gargoyles in the tower being winged dragons of an enormous size and projection, and boldly cut through with much skill.

The belfry windows are double, and show on all sides the tower, which is finished with fine characteristic pinnacles.

There is a priests' door on each side the chancel, exactly opposite to, and corresponding with, each other; a feature I never remember to have observed in any other church.

But the great glory and attraction of this church is its interior, which appears to have been covered with chromatic decoration from the floor to the roof; and the whole of the windows have been filled with stained glass.

Its glories have, however, been marred by its guardian churchwardens, and others equally interested in its conservation. The floor tiles and brasses have all disappeared; the beautiful poppy heads, at least as many as remain, now form brackets to support the seats of the tremendous boxes put up in the beginning of the last century; its walls (and even the very stained glass in the windows, of the most delicate colours, the pinks in particular being very choice, and inscribed as was the custom of that period, and, as seen in Norbury Church, Staffordshire, of the most beautiful description) are now "white-washed annually," as the clerk proudly observed while explaining its wonders.

The roof of the nave is formed with arched ribs or rafters, with principals at intervals, and boarded; and the whole covered with the most brilliant colours, with the bosses at the intersections, and some of the mouldings gilt; the whole can be quite distinctly made out.

The chancel roof is flat and formed into square panels by moulded oak ribs, having a kind of Arabesque painted on them.

There is an unsightly gallery at the west end of the nave, under which is the font, a large stone one, panelled and carved, but in a sad and desecrated condition.

The subject of the present sketch is a curious one, from its apparently combining both the Sanctus Bell Cot and the usual cross on the east gable of the chancel, where, in this instance, though in no other that has come under my observation, it is placed. This is an obvious consequence of the chancel arch being of timber instead of stone. It is, however, unfit for modern imitation, and is perhaps remarkable more for its peculiarities than its elegance.

There are the remains of a fine old hall close by, of the half timbered class which abound in this country, and of which Richardson gives a view and some details in the 3rd series of his 'Studies.' This was the family residence of the Fittons, in the time of Elizabeth and James I."

"W." in a later number illustrates the priest's door mentioned above, and in a still later issue gives us some idea of the grotesque figures; which include a man playing the bagpipes, another musical subject somewhat similar, a mermaid, a dolphin, and such other subjects: most of these are label terminations.

The chromatic decoration, so slightly mentioned by "W.," has lately been ably described by a Mr. Lynoh, who has also given us particulars of the church and her benefactors.

The "fine old hall" is mentioned by Hanshall as being a short distance west from the church. In his time, over the Entrance doorway were the arms of Fitton, with the motto, "FIT ONVS LEVS," on a garter which ornamented them: beneath was the following inscription:—

"Hæc sculptura facta fuit apud
Villam Calvise in Hibernia per
Richardum Rany, Edwardo Fyton
Milite primo d'no presidente totius
Provinciæ conatiss et Thomonise
Anno D'ni 1570."

It is interesting to know that this inscription still remains; and it is hoped that this, in common with all other interesting relics, will escape the destroying hand of the vandal restorer.

Part of the old hall was illustrated in the *Building News* for February 15th, 1878, and the drawing well exhibits the general style of the timber buildings of our county.

J. H.

[908] COMICAL EPITAPHS.

I had occasion to look up some papers which at one time belonged to the late Mr. Richard Swanwick, of Whitehurch—a collector of the last century—and in these I found the following comical epitaphs, which he had noted as of Cheshire origin:—

"ON AN UPHOLSTERER.

Hears I lie on my Back,
S., the partner of Slack,
Upholder, and eke undertaker;
Now, having finished my trade,
And my Beds are all made,
I'm gone, to take rest with my MAKER."

"ON A CHESTER TRADESMAN.

Good Tradesmen all, take up the mournful Lyre,
Weep for a friend, now of your trade expire;
A man esteemed, who gained so much applause,
By steady work, and holding to your cause;
Though now he's dead and lieth here still.
His mem'ry 'll live, so long as Chester will."

They are both dated 1754.

G. A. S.

[909]

MOW COP DIALECT.

[TWELFTH PAPER.]

LOADEN. Loaded, laden.

"Next thereunto did grow a goodly
tree,
With branches broad dispreed and
body great,
Clothed with leaves, that none the
wood might see,
And *loaden* all with fruit as thick as it
might be."

—Spenser, *F. Q.* II. vi.

"The fellow *loaden* with irons, wiser
than the judge,
If wisdom be in suffering."

—Timon of Athens, III. 5.

With these two, the green-drake and
the stone-fly, I do verily believe, I
could, some days in my life, had I
not been weary of slaughter, have
loaden a lusty boy."

—*The Complete Angler.*

BIKE, v. BIKER, s. "Hoo's all'ays rikin."

Bikers are a class of females who
have little disposition to obey the
Apostolic teaching "to be keepers at
home." They are fond of gadding
about and spending much of their
time in the houses of their neighbours;
and when several birds of the same
feather come together, as they generally
do, it may easily be imagined what a
fine "school for scandal" they form.

It seems to me that the words I
have italicised in the following passages
have some degree of affinity with our
local word, both in sound and mean-
ing:—

"What is mankind more unto
you yhold,

Than is the sheep, that **rouketh* in
the fold!"

—Chaucer, C. T., The Knight's Tale.

"Naithing of luvē I know,
But keip my sheip undir yon wod:
Lo quhair they *traik* on raw.

—Percy's *Reliques*.

SLITHER. To slide.

In his amusing book "*Puck on Pegasus*," Mr. H. Cholmondeley-Pennell twice impresses this word into his service.

"Slow it is, is it? jump jolt
Slithering wheel and starting bolt,
Backeting, reeling, and rocking."

"Tottering and staggering and lum-
bering and *slithering* on."

Of course with us the use of the
word is *bona fide*: no suspicion of slang
attaches to it.

SWEAL. To waste away, to melt.

Any lump or swelling in the flesh of a
person is said to be *swealed* away
when, under the influence of rubbing
with some paste or liquid, it gradually
disappears.

A lighted candle melting by being
carried to and fro, or through expo-
sure to a current of air, is said to
sweal.

In Sir Walter Scott's "Old Mortality,"
Alison Wilson, the old housekeeper
at Milnwood, lecturing young Mr.
Henry Morton on a certain occasion,
says: "what for do you no tak
up your candle and gang to your
bed? and mind ye dinna let the
candle *sweal* as ye gang along the
wainscot parlour, and haud a' the
house scouring to get out the grease
again."

DAMASIS. Damsons.

JUKED. Duped.

LUMB'D. Numbed.

SHUTTIN'. The harvest home feast; the closing
of the harvest.

In the Table of Contents preceding the
last chapter of St. Paul's first Epistle
to the Corinthians we have—"He . .
shuttleth up his epistle with divers
salutations."

Mow Cop.

G. H.

* Huddle together.

† *Raik* (Scottish) to go apace. *Raik* on
raw; go fast in a row—Glossary.

Queries.

[910] BISHOP PEPLOE AND THE JODRELL FAMILY.

[Nos. 880, 895.—Oct. 20, Nov. 5.]

I notice that one of your correspondents states that
Mary, the daughter of Bishop Peploe, was the wife of
Francis Jodrell, of Yeardsley, co. Chester, Esq. I am
aware that this statement appears both in the old and
new editions of Dr. Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*; but
as I am inclined to think it is a mistake, I shall be
much obliged if any of your correspondents will kindly
give me some authority for it. The marriage, if it took
place, would probably be entered in the Cathedral
Registers, or there might be some reference to it in the
Bishop's will.

There were but two Francis Jodrells living in
the early part of last century. The first, born in 1690,
was married about the year 1713 Hannah, daughter
of John Ashton, Esq. (who died 1727); and secondly,
in 1729, Mary, daughter of Edward Gregge, of
Hapsford, co. Chester, Esq., who survived him, and was
buried at Chester Cathedral in 1772. The second
Francis Jodrell (son of the above-named Francis by his
first wife), born 1723, married Jane, daughter of Thomas
Butterworth, of Manchester, Esq., and by her had
three daughters, one of whom died an infant. She
survived her husband and remarried. I cannot there-
fore understand the statement as to the marriage with
Miss Peploe, and shall be glad to have it, if possible,
explained.

J. P. FARWAKER.

Withington, Manchester.

[911] THE BUTTER FAMILY.

I have lately met with, in Harl. MS. 1971 (RANDLE
HOLMES' Collection relating to DENBIGHSHIRE, &c.)
a reference to "Lib. 47." This volume I am informed
is *not* in the BRITISH MUSEUM and is probably at
CHESTER. I thought you would perhaps excuse my
writing to ask whether you know anything of it?

The reference occurs in a pedigree of the CONWAY
family, in which Elizabeth Conway is said to have
married, 1st, ROBERT BUTTER of Denbigh, "and had
Foulk and John"; and 2ndly, EDMUND MERRICK,
D.C.L. From other sources I find that the 1st marriage
took place about 1580.

I am anxious to ascertain whether the BUTTERS of
Denbigh were descended from the family of that name
of KINGSLEY Hall, Cheshire; and the vol. referred to
may probably throw some light on the question, though,
on the other hand, the reference may be to the MERRICK
family.

The earliest mention of the name as connected with
Wales, that I have met with, is in a lease dated 14 Hy.
VIII. to Robert Jones, Fulk Butter and Richard Butter

of lands part of the Lordship of Denbigh, and formerly held by Robert Rutter. From that time Fulk or Foulk occurs frequently as a christian name.

If you can give me any information either as to the missing volume of Randle Holmes' Collection, or as to the general object of my search, I shall feel very much obliged.

London.

GEO. RUTTER FLETCHER.

[912] GOSSEN HILL, CHESTER.

You have so often heretofore in THE SHEAF helped me over a difficulty, that I make no apology for again intruding upon you with another small Query.

In a friend's possession at Trammere, I lately saw a legal document of some antiquity, referring to GOSSEN HILL, near Chester. Is there any spot in or near your old city that can now be identified under that title? If so, where is its locality, and what is the derivation of the word? I know you have GOSLANE within the City Walls: the origin of the one name may perhaps form some clue to the other.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

Replies.

[918] THE ESTUARY OF THE DEE.

[No. 888.—Nov. 5.]

In answer to L. L.'s query, I apprehend that the theoretical tide end point in every river is that point where the current at ordinary springs ceases to flow up stream. This point in the River DEE I believe to be a little above The Old Hall at SHOCKLACH, where the river becomes, using the words relatively, and not literally, more torrent and less canal. Observations at FARNDON bridge give an average rise of 14 inches, and this, I think, confirms the foregoing idea. All the old hands whom I have asked have given this place, The Lower Hall, as the highest point they have known the tide to make at in the Dee.

I do not understand L. L.'s distinction between "actual tide" and "backwater." The salt water, which I presume he means by "actual tide," does not reach London Bridge; but the tide in the Thames reaches Teddington (Tide end town), as everyone knows,—a distance of nearly twenty miles above the Bridge; and the word "backwater" on the Thames in the meaning "L. L." seems to use it, viz., the fresh water part of the tide, is never used.

IMOGENE.

NOVEMBER 26, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Nov. 26.—First concert given in the Music Hall (formerly St. Nicholas' Chapel), Chester.....	1855
" 27.—Lord Molineux's Lancashire Regiments marched into Chester about midnight	1688
" 28.—John Werden, of Chester, created a Baronet	1672
" 29.—Brian Walton, 11th Bishop of Chester, died	1661
" 30.—The Castle Bridge at Chester fell down	1585
Dec. 1.—Cheshire invaded by the Scotch for Charles Edward Stuart, the young "Pretender"	1745
" 2.—General Lord Combermere created Viscount	1826

J. H.

Original Documents.

[914] CHESHIRE LIEUTENANCY PAPERS,

No. XIII.

THE KING'S FORESTS OF CHESHIRE.

Turning again to the valuable series of Cheshire MSS. preserved at Oulton Park, we come upon an Order of the Privy Council, after a Report by the law officers of the Crown, in reference to the Wastes and Enclosures in the 17th century within the Forests of Delamere, Macclesfield, &c.:—

"At the Court at Whitehall,
the 25th of February, 1666.

Present,

The King's most Excellent Ma'tie,

His Royall High's ye

Duke of Yorke	Earle of Craven
Lord Chancellour	Earle of Lauderdale
Duke of Albemarle	L'd Visco't Fitzharding
Marques of Dorchester	L'd Arlington
Lord Chamberlain	L'd Berkeley
Earle of Bridgewater	L'd Ashley
Earle of Anglesey	Mr. Comptroller
Earle of Bath	Mr. Vice-Chamberlain
Earle of Carlisle	Mr. Sec'y Morice

G'r Wm Coventry.

"Whereas vpon a petico'n Subscribed by sen'all Gentleme' of the County Pallatine of CHESTER, shewing that one Mr. Rosse, haueinge by his Ma'ties Letters patents obtained a Grant for one & Thirty yeares of all Incroachm'ts made vpon any of his Ma'ties's forrests or Wastes within the said Countie, And also p'oured his Ma'ties Commission,

returnable *Crastino animarum* last past, Authorizing certaine p'sons therein named, or any two or more of them, to enquire what Lands, Tennem'ts, or hereditam'ts within the said forrests or Wasts are Incroached vpon; And vnder C[over] thereof many of his Ma'ties Loyall Subiectts haue bin Summoned to] Exhibitte their Titles to there auncient Inheritances, [to their] disturbance and molestation, especially in this time of Which the pet'rs humbly Conceive is a Questioning Contrary to the Statute 21 Jac: 2: [sic]. That the being Expired, the Grantee endeavours And praying such Com'ission may be Suppressed."

"It was Ordered the 13th of february instant, That the said petticion and matter therein Contayned should be referred to his Ma'ties Councell Learned in the Lawes, and they or any two of them (Whereof Mr. Attorney or Mr. Sollicito'r Generall to be one) were required to examine the abuses Complayned of, and vpon the whole matter to report there opinion vnto the Board. In pursuance whereof, his Ma'ties said Attorney and Sollicito'r Generall this day represented their report in Writing as followeth.

"In Obedience to this annexed Order, We haue heard the peti'oners, and also Mr. Ross and Mrs. Greenwell, for whom hee is a Trustee, And it appeared to vs, That a Lease was passed vnder the Excheq'r Seale to Mr. Ross, by the p'ouement [of] and in trust for Mrs. Greenwell, of all Incroachm'ts made vpon any the Kings Ma'ties forrests or Wasts in the County of Chester, for the Tearme of One and thirty yeares. That, after this grant obtained, they sued out a Commission as is used in such Cases, to enquire and discover what lands or Grounds within the said forrests and wasts had been Incroached.

"But it further appeared to vs that by Colour of that Commission they Sum'oned diverse of his Ma'ties subiects to appeare before them, to shew forth and p'duce there Titles to Lands whereof they were and had been long in possession, which exposed their estates to be searched into and Questioned. And wee humbly Conceive no way Warranted by the Com'ission, but vexatious and a greivance to the people. And the Com'ission being now determined, there haueing beene in this Case, (as was acknowledged) three Com'issions already: We are humbly of an Opinion, That no further or other Com'ission should issue in this Case. But that the Lessee be left to p'seute his Ma'ties and his owne title by due Course of Law, And to make the same out by proofes and evidence, as they shall see cause, [witho]ut calling in the parties themselves to discover their [Titles] As by the said report it doth and may appeare."

"Which being read at the Board and approved, Itt was Ordered by his Ma'tie in Councell that no further or other Com'ission should Issue in this Case, Nor any parties themselves who are Concerned be Sum'oned in, or forced at any time hereafter to discover their owne Titles to there Estates. But Mr.

Attorney Generall and Mr. Sollicito'r Generall are hereby Ordered to take care that his Ma'tie be not surprised for the future into the making of any such Grants, And that this Order for that end and purpose be entred in his Ma'ties Court of Exchequer.

RICHARD BROWNE.

the 15th March 1686:

This Order is entred in the King's Remembrancers office.

H. SPARKE, D: Remem'r: R'p:"

EDITOR.

Notes.

[915] JAMES, DUKE OF MONMOUTH.

The following entry in a MSS. diary, lately presented to me, and which was written by a Huguenot gentleman, at the time resident in Warrington, may be worth a corner in *THE SHEAF*:—

"Sepr. the 14, 1681.

"The Duck of Munmouth was at Stokton-heath, near Warrington, attended with most of the Town of Warrington and most of Cheesheer gentry."

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[916] CHESHIRE MURDERS, TEMP' RICHARD II.

Acts of Parliament in our days are not perhaps the liveliest sort of reading for those not engaged in the profession of the law. But there are many of the earlier Statutes, as preserved to us under authority by Berthelet and other early English printers, which would well repay an attentive perusal, and explain many moot points in our national history. I have now before me, for instance, a folio of ten pages, printed in the year 1504 (19th Henry VII.), containing the whole of the laws enacted in the first year of Henry IV., he who only just before had deposed his liege lord Richard II. at Flint Castle, and conducted him, after a night or two's rest in our Castle of Chester and at Nantwich, as his prisoner to London.

The Acts of this particular year are mainly those setting aside or altering if not improving those passed by his unfortunate predecessor. The preamble of the Session runs thus:—

"Henry by the grace of god, kyngs, &c, to the honour of god and reverence of haly churchs, for to nouryshe vnytie, peace, and conorde of all parties within the realme of Englande: And for the relyef and recouery of the same realme, which nows hath ben myscheuonally put to greate ruyme, myschief, and desolacyon; of the assent of the prelates, dukes, erles, barons, And at the instauns and speccall requeste of the comens of the same realme assembled at his parliament holden at Westmynster, in the feaste of saynte Feythe the vyrgyn, the fyrste yere

of his reygne, hath made, ordeyned, and stablyshed, carleyne ordeynauces and statutes in fourme as here after foloweth.

"Cap. 1. Fyrst that holy churche haue and enioye all his ryghtes, lyberties, and franchises, entierly and without embleamyshyng, &c., &c."

Other Statutes follow; one of them relating to the weirs and stakes and millruns set up in navigable rivers "in great damage of the people," and appointing justices to enquire about and survey the same rivers, just as was done in 1508 in our own river Dee, as set forth at No. 64 of THE SHEAF. But it is to Cap. 18 that I wish to draw the attention of the reader; for it refers wholly to our county of CHESTER, which seems at that time to have stood higher than others in the annals of crime. The Act thus proceeds:—

"Item vpon the greuous clamour and complaynt made to our sayd soueraigne lorde the kyng in this p'sent p'lyament, of many murders, ma'slaughters, robberyes, bateries, and other ryottes and offences, whiche before this tyme hath ben done by people of the countie of Chester to dynars of the kynges liege people in dynars counties of Englande: The same oure soueraigne lorde the kyng, by the aduyse and assent of his lordes spirituall and temporall, and of his comens aforesayd, hath ordeyned and stablyshed that if any p'son of the countie of Chestre, receaunt or dwellynge within the same countie, of what estate or condicyon he be, do com'yt any murdre or felonye in any place out of the sayd cou'tie, p'cesse shal be made agaynste hym by the comon lawe till the Exigende in the countie where such murdre or felonye was done; and yf he flee from thens into the countie of Chester, and be outlawed and put in exigende for such murdre or felonye: The same outlawrie or exigende shalbe certified to the officers and mynysters of ye same countie of Chester, and he the same felon taken by the same offyours or mynysters; and his landes and tenementes, goodes and catals, beyng within the same countie of Chester, seyed as forfayt into the handes of the prync, or of hym that shall be lorde of the same countie of Chester for the tyme, and the kyng shall haue the yere and day and the wast. And the other landes and tenementes, goodes and catals, of such felon beyng out of the sayd countie of Chester, shal remayne holly to the kyng, and to the other lordes haunye therof franchyse, as forfyt, &c., &c."

It thus appears clear that, as the law stood in the days of Richard II., any Cheshire man committing a felony outside his own county, and finding his way back again within the limits of the Palatinate, was free from arrest and all legal process in the king's name! It is easy to see what iniquities would be possible, and indeed certain, under such a system of rival authority; and we cannot wonder that, bit by bit as centuries rolled by, the crown should assert and in the end maintain its right of legal procedure over the entire soil of England. These rights, it may be added, were only completely established in the present reign, when the

distinct courts and jurisdiction of the Cheshire Palatinate were swept away for ever. T. HUGHES.

[917] CHESTER BOOKSELLER.

PETER POTTER.

Inscribed on a fly-leaf in my copy of the collected works of Bishop Wilkins—edition of 1708—is the following penned entry:—

"Joseph Burgess bought this of Peter Potter bookseller

And Stationer in Chester, July ye 4, '43."

This would be in 1743. The volume appears to have been mostly owned by Cheshire persons; as there are several autographs of members of the Burgess family, of Delamere Forest, down to as late as the year 1835, previous to which it belonged to one of the Massey family.

Brookwood, Surrey. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

[918] PRACTICAL JOKERS IN CHESTER.

The very absurdity of the following circumstance coupled with its local interest, will perhaps secure it a place in THE CHESHIRE SHEAF:—

"In the night of Tuesday, during the late fair at Chester, some person or persons deposited a considerable quantity of assafetida, mixed with oil of hartshorn, or some other offensive ingredient, in the crevices of several shop doors, principally inhabited by linen drapers and clothiers, which rendered the shops so very disagreeable, that business could scarcely be done in them for two days afterwards; many ladies nearly fainted in coming to them, and were obliged to go out immediately."

I transcribe this from the *Salopian Journal* of October 30, 1805. A. R.

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A somewhat similar incident, and quite equal to it in folly, took place some seven or eight years ago in the old KING'S SCHOOL at Chester. It was the School "Speech Day," and a large number of friends of the institution, and relations of the pupils, had assembled to witness the Presentation of the Prizes.

Before however the doors were opened to the public, a brace of young imps had busied themselves in quietly strewing small heaps of a subtle powder here and there about the room,—a work which no one else noticed, and which no one perhaps would have remarked upon, even if he had. The room gradually filled with people, and the proceedings in due course commenced.

The Head Master, the late Rev. James Harris, made his customary speech; but little enthusiasm was aroused, until the reverend dignitary who occupied the chair made a few good points in his address to the Boys which were rigorously applauded. All at once the audience became excited, they scarcely knew why, and emotion was visible in many a countenance. The Chairman felt he was making an unusual impression upon his hearers, so redoubled his efforts and added fire to his periods. Soon it was noticed that most of those

present, the chairman included, were in tears; and it may safely be said that many an eye was red that day with weeping to which tears had indeed for a long time been strangers! The Chairman concluded his moving speech, and in a short while the company departed wondering, nay half ashamed, that their feelings should have so strongly overcome them. I lingered behind to glean the cause of the strange excitement; and it was whispered to me, by one in the secret, that what the Head Master and the Chairman had regarded as the fruits of their oratory, was in reality but the "dust kicked up" which those two young sinners had scattered so adroitly an hour or so before! Half-a-crown ill spent on cayenne pepper and snuff had brought tears to cheeks which even the eloquence of a Spurgeon would have failed to move!

Of course it was a senseless joke, and ought not to have been perpetrated. But equally of course, such freaks are inherent in the school-boy; and no amount of education or even punishment will ever quite eradicate the love of mischief from the brain of the thoughtless young Englishman. T. HUGHES.

Queries.

[919] CAMP GREEN.

Can you, or anyone, at all account for the origin of the name of "Camp Green," a small circular plot of ground, situated to the north of midway between Mere Mill (ROSTERNE), and the boundary of TATTON PARK?

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

[920] THE MAYOR'S SNUFF-BOX.

On one occasion, a good many years ago now, I sat in close proximity to the Mayor at one of the annual Banquets in the old EXCHANGE at Chester. Upon the table near his Worship I noticed a large silver casket, which a friend near me said was the Mayor's official Snuff-box. What is the history of this large, but perhaps not altogether graceful, piece of Corporation Plate?

L. L.

Replies.

[921] REV. THOMAS ALCOCK.

[No. 897.—Nov. 12.]

In Mr. DREDER's very interesting account of Vicar ALCOCK of BUNCOBN, he has omitted to mention that, in 1791, he published a sermon which he called "An Apology for Esau." In the preface to it he states that

it occupied one hour and fifty minutes when he delivered it at Plymouth. The sermon evinces much learning, and some originality of thought, but the style has a tincture of pedantry. Long as the sermon was in the delivery, the author states in the preface that it was far shorter than one which his collateral ancestor BISHOP ALCOCK, founder of Jesus College, Cambridge, preached on one occasion.

Warrington.

W. B.

[922] THE CONY-GREES, CHESTER.

[No. 900.—Nov. 12.]

In a large map I have of Cheshire this place is spelt CONEY-GREE. In 1794 there seems to have been one house only in the place.

It is situate at the S.E. corner of DELAMERE FOREST, N.N.E. of Little Budworth, and N.W. of Brook House. It stands at the northern angle of a triangle, of which Little Budworth and Brook House are the base, and of which the sides of this triangle are pretty nearly equal.

I find, besides this "Coney Gree" at the S.E. corner of the Forest, there is also a place called "Coney Green" to the westward of Spon's Moor, and about one mile north of POTT SHERIDLEY, near the boundary of Derbyshire.

Great Saughall.

W. H. BRADFORD.

In the first volume, just issued, of the *Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society's Publications*, which I have been overhauling with much interest and profit to-day, I have come upon what I presume to be the precise information required by your correspondent "T. T."

It occurs in the Commonwealth "SURVEY OF LANDS, Chief Rents, &c., of the DEAN and CHAPTER OF CHESTER," taken under an Order from the Lords Commissioners for the Great Seal of England, in July, 1649. After enumerating the various properties in and about other parts of the city, the three surveyors arrive at the site of St. Giles' Hospital in Boughton; which house and all others near to it had been destroyed during the then quite recent Civil War. A little property there, belonging to the Dean and Chapter, is thus set down by the Commonwealth officers:—

"SPITTLE BOUGHTON.

"One p'cell of Land called ye Cony grees, situate and lying near a place called Spittle Boughton, in ye Occupac'on of William Amberley, bounded East on the Sandy Lane, and West upon the River Dee, and in Estimate—01s. 03r. 00p. £1 : 10 : 0"

The position of this little property is sufficiently well defined to enable us to mark it as the site upon which the house and grounds known as "Dee Banks" now stands, at the north-west end of Sandy Lane.

The name indicates that it was in Old Noll's days a rabbit warren; and it probably in that capacity did frequent suit and service at the Dean's and Preben-

daries' dinner table; as well as at banquets at the annual Court Leet and Audit of the Chapter Estates in Boughton, only discontinued within the present writer's memory.

G. T.

[923]

THOMAS PARNELL, D.D.

[No. 771, 806.—Aug. 6, Sept. 8.]

Dr. Johnson, in his life of PARNELL, says:—"He was the son of a Commonwealthsman, who at the Restoration left CONELSTON, in Cheshire, where the family had been established for several centuries, and purchased an estate in Ireland, which, with his lands in Cheshire, descended to the Poet." The above Thomas Parnell, who was born in Dublin in 1679, where he was educated, was admitted into Trinity College at the age of 18. He, in the year 1700, took his degree of M.A., and in 1706 had conferred on him the Archdeaconry of Clogher.

Dean Swift introduced him to Archbishop King, who gave him a Prebend's stall in 1718, and in May 1716 presented him to the Vicarage of Finglass, near Dublin.

He died at CHESTER, on his way to Ireland, in July 1717, and Rees' Cyclopaedia says, "he was buried without any monumental record, in TRINITY CHURCH in that city."

Dublin.

W. MONK GIBBON.

[This last statement is open perhaps to some little question. We remember being assured by an old resident of Holy Trinity parish, about thirty years ago, that at the beginning of this century there was a memorial of PARNELL affixed to the west interior wall of the old church, near the vestry door; and that it was surmounted with a good bust of the Poet. It is astonishing to us how these ancient memorials are continually allowed to vanish from our churches, especially at vaunted "restorations," and often without a single finger of either of minister or wardens being put forth to protect them.—EDITOR.]

[924]

MAYS OF HERRINGS.

[Nos. 867, 891.—Oct. 22, Nov. 5.]

At all the fishing villages on the North Devon coast the catches of herrings are still reckoned, as of old, by the "Mays."

I find on inquiry there that three herrings make a 'cast,' and fifty-one "casts" make a quarter of a 'Mays.' Four of these, of course, constitute the Mays: and so we arrive at the fact that 612 herrings are required to complete a Mays; that the garrison of FLINT was in 1808 supplied with 1836 herrings, and RHUDDLAN, in the same manner, with 2448, for the partial victualling of the troops in those fortresses.

Connah's Quay.

L. W.

DECEMBER 3, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Dec. 3.—William Downham, 4th Bishop of Chester, died	1577
" 4.—Sir John Birkenhead, a native of Northwich, Editor of the <i>Mercurius Aulicus</i> , died in London	1679
" 5.—Parry & Truss' Coach Manufactory in Foregate-street, Chester, burnt down a second time within six years	1811
" 6.—King Edward I. passed through Chester into Wales	1294
" 7.—Halton new Court-House and Prison finished	1737
" 8.—Edward Burghall, Vicar of Acton, author of <i>Providence Improved</i> , died.....	1665

J. H.

Original Documents.

[925]

THE FREEDOM OF CHESTER.

The Rolls (literally narrow vellum rolls, many yards in continuous extent) of persons admitted to the FREEDOM OF CHESTER CITY, are preserved in the fire-proof muniment room in the New TOWN HALL. They extend from 30th Henry VIII. (1588) to the present time, with the exception of the Roll between the years 1611-85, which has long been missing from the city's archives, and may indeed have vanished in the wreck resulting from the dread Civil War. There was at the beginning of this century a still earlier Roll, carrying the List of Freemen considerably further back. But this important Document of an interesting series does not now exist: it may possibly have been lost or destroyed when the old Exchange was destroyed by fire on Dec. 30th, 1865.

The Freedom of Chester has always been a coveted distinction, even by men of historic renown. But it was that and something more to the commorant citizen; for it gave him and his colleagues the monopoly of the trade of the city, as no man who had not first been sworn into the Freedom was qualified or allowed to commence business within its limits. "Protection to native industry," which was abolished in the early manhood of the present generation, was a cardinal article of faith with our mediæval ancestors.

The first formal notice I find of the way our Freemen were constituted is in an Order of Assembly,

"Tempore Will'i STANMER, Maioris
Civitatis Cestr'. 82 H. 6.

*Y't none shalbe made fre man unless his arronde
be first said at Portmote, &c.*

Hit is ordynet by the assent of Will'm Stanmer, mayre of the Cytie of Chester, and the xxliij'ti Ald'men And all the Comynaltie of the Saide Citie, At the Port Mote holden afore the Saide mayre, The mondays next Afore the fest of Seynt Dionise, in the yere of the Reigne of Kinge Henry the vijth after the conquest of Inghland the xxxij'ti, that no manar of p'sons in tyme to com' be admyttid into the lib'ties & francheisis of the saide Citie but that, affore That Admission, it be agreed in playn portemote by yemayre and Comynaultye of ye Said Cytie that Suche p'son shall enjoy the saide Liberties & francheisis; and that every suche p'sone so admyttid pay unto the tresorers of ye same Citie for the tyme beinge xxvjs. viijd., Withe wyne & other ffees of olde tyme scoostomyd, in hande, or suffycent suretie the'for to pay it at such dayes as can be Agreit by tharvice of the mayre And thersorers, w'th outen eny p'don thereof or any p'cell therof.

All such as are made free, to reside in ye Citty, or loose ye benefite of it, saving their Children not to loose it.

And that eny Suche p'son so Admyttid be resiant & of housold w't in ye said citie. And if anye suche p'son, contrarye to these formes afor rehersed, be Admyttid, y't suche Admission be voyde & stande in no stringht, saving to the child'n of fraunchisid Men to be Admyttid to the said lib'ties, at ye volunte of ye mayo'r and comynaultye for ye tyme beinge, for ye wyne and other feis of olde tyme dewe and of Custome."

A slight revision of the first Order, so far as it admitted of sureties for the payment of the fees, ultimately became necessary; for within a century it was found that unless payment "on the nail" were insisted upon, it was difficult to get hold of the money when a slippery Freeman had once been sworn in.

"Tempore Will'i Godeman,
"maioris [1532]

The order of freemen made by Wm. Stanmer
Confermed by Wm Goodman, sauinge all
monys of any free man to be payd in hand.

Whiche ordre, in tyme of Will'm Godeman, late Being mayre of the Said Cytie, was confermed in all thinges, Saving for the payment of ye monye; w'oh was then orderdy by the saide Will'm Godeman, ye shriffs, ald'men, and Comon Counsaile of ye saide Cytie, then being at an assamble houlden in ye pentice of ye saide Citie, to be payed all in hande, That is to saie of eny p'son not being p'ntise w't in the Saide Citie, xxs."

This last Order still holds good, as far as the exercise of the Freeman's franchise is concerned. So soon after his admission as he ceases to be "commorant," i.e., to reside within seven miles of the exterior limits of the city, his name is removed from the Electoral Roll.

T. HUGHES.

[1828] CHURTON HEATH.

We have already had something incidentally to say about this modest little Township, which impinges so closely on the dual acres of EATON. We return to it now, in order to introduce a few official trifles found amongst some private papers of the COLLEY family (so long identified with the township), that have descended to Dr. DAVIES-COLLEY, of Newton-by-Chester, present representative of the family in the female line.

The first is a precept from the court of quarter sessions for the county, bearing date 1729, and relating to the High Constableness of the Hundred of Broxton. It runs thus:—

"Com' Cestr'.

Georgius Secundus Dei gra' Magn' Britann'
franco' et Hib'nie Rex fidei defens', &c.

To Jonathan Colley, of Church Heath, in the said
County, Gent.

Whereas at our Court of General Qu'r Sessions of the Peace held at Nether Knottesford in and for the Said County the day of the date hereof, you, together with Thomas Hale of Tushingham, in the Said County, Gent', were nominated and appointed to serve the Office of HIGH CONSTABLES for the Hundred of BROXTON in this County for the year ensuing. We Command you therefore immediately on receipt hereof to take upon you the said Office, and that you repair to Some of our Justices of the peace for the said County, and to take the Oath for the due execution of your Said Office accordingly. Herein fail not. Teeste pr'hono'bil' Georgio Comit' Cholmondeley Custod' Rot'lor' Com' pr'd', Robt' Lowe, et Carol' Dukinfeild, Ar', et al' Socijs suis Justiciar' n'ris ad pacem, &c. Dat' Septimo die Octobr' An'o B'ni n'ri tertio.

THO: TAGG, Cler' Pacis
p' Com' pr'd'."

Along with this is an Assessment charged upon the western side of the Hundred, which Mr. Colley had to collect, the eastern Townships being no doubt saddled on the other High Constable, Mr. Hale. It is headed:—

"An Assessm't for the Repair of Certain Bridges, and for the Glasing and Slating the County Hall, and for the Relief of ye Prisoners in the Castle of Chester, March the 16th, 1729."

There are 37 Townships included in the Assessment the two bearing the largest charge being SAUGHTON-CUM-HUNTINGTON, 17s. 9½d., and TATTNALL, 13s. 8d. The others pay smaller and unequal amounts, the two lowest in the scale being CHURCHEN HEATH, 8½d., and GLOVERSTONE (Chester Castle), 8½d.—in all, for the 37 Townships, about £10 17s. 0d.

The County Hall that wanted glasing and slating was the ancient Shire Hall, adjoining the fine Exchequer Chamber in Chester Castle, of which there is an illustration given in LYSONS' *History of Cheshire*.

In 1789, a Mr. JOHN WADDE was the High Constable for the western side of Broxton Hundred, and addressed his precept to Churton Heath Township, in the following terms:—

"Hundred Broxton.

To the Constables of Churton Heath; these are in his majestyes name to Command you to Collect By destres or other wise the Sume of 1s. 7d., Being your proportion of £32:12:6 Charged upon this Hundred for the Repaireng the County Goal and Pulford Bridg, togeder with the Quatrley pay; and pay the Same to me at the Sign of the Plow, in the northgate Street, Chester, upon munday ye 23 of Ap'l next, by tene of the Clock. Dated the 29 of March 1739.

JOHN WADE, H.C."

As the COLLEYS were the chief owners of, and the only substantial residents in, the little Township, they were naturally almost hereditary Constables; and thus it was that they were called upon to pay their proportion of 1s. 7d. at the audit for the Hundred held, as above, at the appropriate sign of "the Plow" in Chester.

In our own day, and indeed until quite recently, a lady was tenant of the Colley estate at Bruera (Churton Heath); and for the whole of that period was annually appointed, and performed the duties of Constable of the Township.

EDITOR.

Notes.

[927] THE LOST DOG FOUND.

The following piquant bit of composition and spelling is the verbatim copy of a Letter preserved in an old scrap-book in my possession. The Letter was addressed to EDWARD VENABLES TOWNSEND, Esq., of Wincham, in this county, a few years prior to his unsuccessful contest, in conjunction with Sir John Grey Egerton, Bart., against the Grosvenor interest, for the representation of CHESTER city.

"Sir,

April 7th, 1807.

I hope these Lines will find you and your Leady whell in Health, Likewise your Dear Loving Son;—excuse me in Wrighting, but I dow Assaure you I can give you of An Account of your Dog Pearson, as I have hard of him where he is, and he his the Best Dog on the Moors this Last Season by all accounts. if you Come to the Assises, I should be glad if you will give me a call, as you know where to find me under the Hands of Mr. Hutson [Hudson], Keeper of the Castle. Sir, it his your Dog, by what I can Lerne, I will give A proper A Count where you may find him, I ham, Sir, your ever whell wisher

JOHN DUTTON.

Sir, it his your Dog by the marks and make by the Descriptions. Bless you and your family. the Dog his at William Brown's.

For Esqr. Townsend

Wincham

to be left at Mr. Swain's

Old Slow & Easey

Holford-street."

It would be difficult to crowd into the compass of a letter a greater number of grammatical errors than are here perpetrated by the modest scribe who, hailing from the prison of Chester Castle, parades himself as the saviour of the Squire's missing dog.

M. L. T.

[928]

MOW COP DIALECT.

I send the following matter, in further explanation and illustration of some of the words included in my former papers. With this, I propose, for the present, concluding my notes on this subject.

CLERM.

In one of the early chapters of "The Queen's Badge," we are introduced to the lad Robert Nixon, the Cheshire Prophet; Goodman Dale jocosely describing him as being "in a parlous ill-temper, because he had been beaten with the distaff for stealing the good-wife's deer's-milk cheese," and commenting on this, the farmer says:—"Gi'n he had been *clermmed* for meat, we would none of us have flouted him wi' the theft; but my good-woman is but too kind, and gi'es him a' th' tit-bits, and o'er much of his own way besides."

When little Tom, the north-country chimney sweep—the hero of CANON KINGSLAY'S delightful Fairy Tale—arrived at the cottage of the old lady in Vendale, tired and faint, and just before he was so wonderfully transformed into a Water Baby, he described himself as "most *clermmed* with hunger and drought."

This word also 'crops up' in Mr. J. B. Harwood's recent novel "Paul Knox, Pitman," the characters for which the author finds in a North of England colliery village.

CLIP.

"suffre ye litil children to come to me and forbede ye hem not for of suche is the kyngdom of god, . . . and he *by clippid* hem and leide hise hondis on hem and blessid hem."

WIGLIF'S Transl. St. Mark, x. 14.16.

FADGE.

Round him will baudrins au' the eollie come,

To wag their tail, and cast a thankfu' ee,

To him wha kindly flings them mony a crumb

O' kebbuck whang'd an' dainty *fadge* to prie;

This a' the boon they crave, an' a' the fee.

—ROBERT FERGUSON.

FLIT. Scot. *flit*, *flyt*, to remove from one house to another; Icelandic, *flyttia*, to transport. Wi' tentie care I'll *flit* thy tether.

—BURNS.

"Weel, Mause, I'll just end where I
suld hae begun—ye're ower learned and
ower godly for me to dispute wi'; sae I
have just this to say,—either Cuddie
must attend musters when he's lawfully
warned by the ground-officer, or the
sooner he and you *flit* and quit my
bounds the better."

—Old Mortality.

In Psalm lvi. 8, Prayer book version,
we have "Thou tellest my *flittings*."
In the Bible version the word is
rendered "*wanderings*." The word
flit occurs in the margin of Jeremiah
xlix. 80.

HYLL.

"eche man preiynge or profeciynge
whanne his heed is *hiliid*: defoulith his
heed."

—WICLIF's Tr., 1 Cor., xi., 4.

"and aboue the trones foure and
twenti elder men sittinge, *hiliid* aboute
with wigt clothis: and in the heedis
of hem goldun crownes."

—WICLIF's Tr., Rev. iv., 4.

LIEFER or LIEVER.

"I had *liefer* that the fish had
swallowed me,

Like Jonah, than have known there
were such devils."

—TENNYSON. Harold II., i.

"I want to go to sea. I want to see
the Indies. I want to fight the
Spaniards. Though I am a gentleman's
son, I'd a deal *liever* be a cabin-boy on
board your ship."

—Westward Ho!

"I may neught eat, so sore I am aghast.
Lever I had this forty dayis fast,
With waterkall, and green beans and peas
Than all your feast with this dread and
disease."

—HENRYSON, a Scottish poet,
who died about 1500.

"Lo! here two coffers on the board;

Now choose and take which you is
lever."

—GOWER.

STEL. A.S. *stela*, a stalk, a handle.

THIRL. BURNS has the word *thirled* for thrilled.

"There was ae sang, among the rest,

It *thirled* the heart-strings through
the breast."

THERAP.

"Bell my wife she loves not strife,

Yet she will lead me if she can;

And oft, to live a quiet life,

I am forced to yield, though I me
good-man:

It's not for a man with a woman to
threape,
Unless he first give oer the ples:
As wee began wee now will leave,
And Ile take mine old cloake about
mee."

—PRECY's *Reliques*.

In Sir Walter Scott's "*Monastery*,"
Dame Glendinning, referring to a long
standing subject of difference between
herself and her "*gude-man*," says:—
"and mony a time Simon wad *threape*
it to me after I was married."

Mow Cop.

G. H.

Queries.

[929] CHEYNEY HALL, NANTWICH.

Is there any mansion so named now standing in the
good old town of Wich Malbank; and, if so, where-
about is it situate? I think, but am not sure, that it
was an old house even in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

A WOODMAN.

[930] THE CHESHIRE PALATINATE COURT.

In a recent issue of THE SHEAF [No. 840], mention
was made of the special jurisdiction of the Cheshire and
North Wales Courts,—that they were in fact on an
equality with, and yet independent of, the high Courts
of the Crown. I believe history fully justifies this
statement, and that the judgments given in these local
Courts were often quoted as legal axioms by the big-
wigs at Westminster.

But I have also been told that, if not the Bar, cer-
tainly the Solicitors of these Courts were in like
manner independent of, and distinct from, the national
roll of legal practitioners; that, in short, an Attorney
in the Courts of Cheshire, Denbigh, and Flint, only
acted as such within those limits, and that the ordinary
English lawyers could not, except with special leave,
appear in these three allied local Courts. Were these
things so?

CAMBRO-BRITON.

Replies.

[931] ROBERT FRECKLETON.

[No. 889.—Nov. 5.]

I know nothing of this clergyman prior to his
appearance at CHESTER during the Siege, as mentioned
by your correspondent "CAMBRO-BRITON." He had
most likely resisted the pretensions of the Roundheads

in his former parish, wherever that may have been, and been compelled to flee and take refuge in some Royalist garrison, and thus selected Chester as a reliable stronghold.

But on the reduction of the city by Brereton, Mr. Freckleton appears to have been at once pounced upon there as a delinquent, and subjected to the pains and penalties attaching to that loyal crime. He had probably friends, notwithstanding, among the new comers; for he seems to have very soon made more than peace with his persecutors, as the under-written extract from the new RECORD SOCIETY'S volume of *Surveys of Lands, &c., of the Bishop of Chester* clearly indicates. Under the head of BACKFORD in that Return, I find the following at p. 218:—

"The p'sent Minister that supplieth the place is one Mr. *Freckleton*, who was resident in Cheater when the Parliament forces took that City, and had his goods sequestred by the Committee of Sequestrac'on in that City for his delinquency. He enjoyeth the profits of the Vicaridge, being placed there pro tempore by some of the Deputie Leiften'nts of this County. And by virtue of an Order from the Committee of Plundered Ministers, dated the 10th of June, 1646, for 50*li.*, by way of Augmentac'on, out of the Parsonage of the same p'ishe: hee enjoyeth all the benefitts and profits of the said Impropr'ac'on."

From *Historical Sketches of Nonconformity in the County Palatine of Chester*, I glean that "he signed the Attestation of Cheshire Presbyterian ministers in 1648, as *Robert Freckleton*, minister at Backford," after which date there appears to be no local means of tracing him further. G. T.

[932] MARLING IN CHESHIRE.

[No. 898.—Nov. 12.]

Seeing in your last week's SHEAF an account for certain work done by a gang of Marlers, I beg to add that which I well remember sixty years ago in the neighbourhood of Northwich. After breakfast, which was generally taken on the pit bank, the head man, or "Lord of the Soil," which was his usual appellation, stepped out and called in a loud voice three times, "O! yez! O! yez! O! yez! This is to give notice that Mr. — has given to us Marlers part of a thousand pounds; and to whomsoever will do the same we will return thanks and shout." The men then joined hands and, putting their heads together, shouted "Largesse! Largesse!" Should any one pass through the field, the Lord walked up, having a marl clod on his shoulder. This was so well understood that sixpence or a shilling was usually given. If the former, it was proclaimed as "part of one hundred pounds;" if the latter, "part of one thousand pounds." At the close of the season they assembled in front of the village inn, and repeated the oration. Few denied the Marlers.

POLYANTHUS.

DECEMBER 10, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Dec. 10.—Dean Cotton, of Chester, died at Bath	1805
„ 11.—First barge or 'flat' passed from the Canal to the River at Chester	1776
„ 12.—Henry Brooke, of Norton, Esq., created a Baronet	1662
„ 13.—Beeston Castle scaled and taken for the King by Captain T. Sandford	1643
„ 15.—Grand Dinner given by Mr. (afterwards Sir John) Egerton to the Officers of Volunteers, at Oulton Park	1807
„ 16.—Randle Gernons, Earl of Chester, died	1153

J. H.

Original Documents.

[933] NANTWICH GREAT FIRE.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth this town was visited with a very great calamity, which, while it involved the inhabitants in ruin, powerfully aroused the sympathy of her Majesty and the nation. This very day, December 10, is the 296th anniversary of the event; which is recorded in red ink, in the following curious entry still extant in the Register of Burials for the Parish of NANTWICH, in December, 1583:—

"The X day of this monnth chanced a most tereble and vehement fyre, begindinge at the water lood about VI of the clooke at night, in a Kitchen by Bruinge: the winde being very boysterous, increased ye sayd fyre, which very vehemently wasted and consumed (in the space of 15 houres) 600 bayes of buldinges, and could not be stayed nether by labour nor pollicye. which I thought good to comend vnto the posterety, as a fauourable punishment of thalmightye . in destroyinge the buldings and gooc's only, but sparing the lyes of many people (w'oh considering ye time, space, and perell) were in great Jopardy yet by gods mercye, but only tow persons that perashed by fyre."

"p' Hugh price, which sawe that, and wrote this."

The earliest printed account of the disaster is probably that of WILLIAM WEBB, one of the authors of the *Fale-Royall of England*, published in 1656, by Daniel King, a native of Chester. Webb is describing the old town of Nantwich, at Part ii, p. 69, and says,—

"The Buildings within the same Town are very fair and neat, and every street adorned with some speciall mansions of Gentlemen of good

worth; the middle and the principal parts of the Town being all new buildings, by reason of a lamentable fire which happened there in Anno 1583, that consumed in one night all the dwellings from the River side, to the other side of the Church; which, Church it self by the great mercy of God escaped, and was left standing naked without neighbours, saving onely the School-house, in a few hours; yet such were the estates of many of the Inhabitants, and so graciously did Queen *Elizabeth* of blessed memory favour them, with her own earnest furthering of a Collection through the whole Kingdom, and the businesse so well managed by the care and industry of Sir *Hugh Cholmley*, Mr. *John Masterson*, and other the chief agents in the same, that the whole scite and frame of the Town so suddenly ruined, was with great speed re-edified in the beautiful manner that it now is."

The chancel of Nantwich Church in 1752 contained the tomb of this John Masterson and his wife; whereon had once been the following inscription, defaced prior to the visit of the then transcriber:—

"Here lyeth the body of JOHN MAISTERSON, gent., together with Margaret his wife; which John and Margaret had issue Margaret, who married to Randolph Stanley of Alderley, which John died 10 Dec. 1586.

Within this fading tombe sepuited lies

John Maisterson and Margaret his wyfe,

Whose soules do rest above the vaulted skies

In paradise with God, the lord of lyfe.

Which John wrought means to build the Namptwich towne

When fire had frett her face, and burnt her doune."

The damage done by the great Fire in 1583 has been variously estimated at £30,000 and £200,000—a pretty wide margin! At the time "there were 219 Salt Works," but the fire "injured or destroyed nearly the whole of them." "Seven considerable inns" were burnt, namely, the *Ship*, the *Cock*, the *Bell*, the *Crane*, the *Hart's Horn*, the *Swan*, and the *Bear*.

"The sympathy excited by this calamity was so great that a general collection was made throughout the kingdom; and Queen Elizabeth contributed £2000, and the use of timber in the Forest of Delamere, to a great amount."

I copy the following entry from the Parish Register of Burials in 1584:—

"This yeare passed, our most noble queene Elizabeth (whom god long preserve) of her royall and princely Bountye granted A Commission under her owne Hande, to make a gennerall collection throughout all her Realme of England, for the Redefining againe of this towne of Namptwich, which liberality was collected in the yeare abovesayd, and this yeare following."

The house in High-street now occupied by Mr. SANDFORD was built at this date, as shewn by the following inscription on its front:—

"Thomas Cleeze made this worke The yeare of oure Lorde God 1584."

The following also appears upon a board that Mr SANDFORD has had carefully restored and repainted:—

"God grante our Ryal Queen
In Englande longe to reign
For she hath put her helping
Hand to bild this towne Againe."

FOSTER G. BLACKBURN.

Nantwich Rectory.

Notes.

[934] THE CONFLAGRATION AT NANTWICH IN 1583.

The following interesting Letter, which is taken from Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa* (4to ed., vol. i, pp. 145-6), describes the condition of the town of NANTWICH after the unfortunate Fire in December, 1583 (296 years ago this day), and the means which were suggested for the relief of the inhabitants. The letter is addressed by the Lords of the Council to WILLIAM CHADDEBTON, Lord Bishop of CHESTER. What are now left of the quaint Elizabethan houses in the town were put up after this Fire. The conflagration referred to was the second that had happened in the history of the town, it having been nearly consumed in the year 1458:—

"After oure verie hartie comendations

Whereas, by mysadventure of fyre [which] happened within the towne of Nantwicke in the countie of Chester upon the x day of December last, there was burnt and consumed (as we have bene verie crediblie enformed from our verie good lord therle of Derby & others of good credit) to the number of DCCC. houses, with the most part of the goods & householde stuffe of the inhabitants to a verie great vawle, wherebie a great number of the sayd inhabitants, beinge men of good wealth, are, with there wives, children & families, utterlie spoyled and undone; and the towne become desolate, which of late was not onlie of good wealth & trade by reason of [its] situation; but alsoe of good importaunce for the service of her majestie & the realme (beinge a th'ough-fare, lyinge convenient, for the receipt of souldiers, carrages, and munition to be sent unto the realme of Ireland).

The queens maiestie there fore, of her gracios disposition, havinge her self [given] towards the relief of the said inhabitants a good vawle; hopinge that her lovinge subiects will also have consideration of the lamentable estate of those poore afflicted inhabitants, as they would desire releif of other, upon the like visitation from Gods hands:

To that ende it hath pleased her majestie to com'and us most earnestlie, in her name, to re-commende the same unto your lordship, and to re-

quire you, not onlie by your owne good example in contributinge in some reasonable manner, but by dealing effectualye with your clergie to yeld there devotion the more largelie, to farther soe charitable and necessarie a purpose; and that yow appoint some men of good credit and reputation to collect the said contribution and devotion, & send the same to the citie of Chester, there to be delivered to the handes of the maior of the same citie and CHRIS. TOPHER GOODMAN preacher, together with your letters, mentioning the summes collected and sent; and further [to] advertise us by youre letters thereof. Wherein we praye yow to cause all convenient expedition to be used, in respect of the present necessitie of the people; so as therbie they maie be speidlie relieved, and her maiestie occasioned to accept well of youre doings therein.

And soe, trustinge that this shall surffice, we bid yow farewell. From Westminster, the xi. of March, 1583.

Your lordships verie lovi'ge frends

T. Bromley, cano.	Fra. Knolles
W. Burghley	James Crofte
E. Lincolne	Chr. Hatton
E. Leicester	Fra. Walsingham
H. Haward	Wal. Mildmay.
John Hunsdon	

To ours verie good lord, the
lord Bishop of Chester."

The Mayor of Chester was ROBERT BRERWOOD. CHRISTOPHER GOODMAN, born at Chester about 1520, was educated at Oxford. When M.A., and about 1548, he was Margaret Professor of Divinity. During the reign of Mary he went to Geneva. On the accession of Elizabeth he was appointed minister of St. Andrews, Scotland; having gained the favour of the Scotch reformers by joining Knox in attacking the 'monstrous regimen' of women, and the English liturgy. On coming to England he got into trouble, and had to sign a recantation of some of his opinions. He died about the year 1601 or 1602 at CHESTER, where, when he lay a-dying, he was visited by Archbishop Ussher. Ussher, it is said, took from him several droll stories, which afterwards, when old himself, he repeated to his friends. GOODMAN is the author of a *Commentary on Amos*. In 1559 he had been instituted Archdeacon of Richmond.

JOHN E. BAILLY.

Stretford, near Manchester.

Among the miscellaneous documents in possession of the Corporation of St. Albans, Herts, is a contemporary copy of the above printed appeal from the Privy Council; showing that contributions were freely invited, under the Queen's authority, from the churches of other dioceses, and the municipal bodies in other counties, of England. This is exactly in accord with the second of the two extracts from the NANTWICH church registers, contributed to this day's SHEAF by the present rector, Mr. Blackburne.

EDITOR.

[935] NANTWICH FIRE RHYMES.

The terrible conflagration which laid WICH MALBANK in ruins on December 10, 1573, seems to have aroused the county rhymsters of that day to commemorate the story in verse.

Here is one which, until a very few years ago, was accorded a place on the chancel wall of NANTWICH Church, immediately over the tomb of the local patriot to whom it referred:—

"AN EPITAPH VPPO' YE DEATH OF JOHN
MAISTERSON, GEN.
1586.

Nowe Malbank mourne, lament your losse, lay
mirthe asyde, he sade,—
Lett fall your straeninge siluer tears for him that
made you glade
Your Joy and Jewell wears to dust, his bones are
clad in clay,
Your Filler and your Proppe is gone, gone is your
gemne and stay
The turrett trewe and steedfast towre is battred to
the grounda,
The captane choefe of all the charge, dead in the
campe is founde.
Traile downe youre Ensignes and retire, the steede
hath loste his breathe
Lett trumpet'r sound, strike one the drum, the
dumpe of dreedfull deathe.
Fowle of youre scattringe shott at ones, dragg on
your pearring picke,
Close up youre gates, shutt up your doores, you
neuer saw the like.
Pull downe youre hangings and begene to attire
your walls with blake
Send forthe youre greefed sighes, youre happe is
gone to wreek.
This dismall day canicular, one this tenthe day of
December
Your towne was burnde, your frend did die that was
your cheefest member.
Your extreame losse he did repaire, he wypte youre
tears away,
But now youre glorie and youre gain, shall be no
more youre stay.
JOHN MAISTERSON hathe chaunge his life, to Mal-
banke heauie greefe,
Good change to him, hard change to them that
felt his sweete releife.
Unto the poore he frankly gaue, the needie shall
him wante,
To those that laoke, his happie hand was neuer
proved scante.
When this poore Towne to ashes fell, denourde with
firie flame,
By pittie moued, he founde the way, howe to repaire
the same.
Whoe by the grace of our good Queene, and nobles
of this land,
This poor Towne was builte up againe, in state as it
dothe stande.

The timber had els growing in woods, which nowe
 sweete dwellings are,
 Soe had the seats and plotts of ground, remain'd to
 this day bare :
 Had he not bin, this Towne had bin noe Towne as
 nowe it is ;
 That which he had, he did procure, the tranaille all
 was his.
 His deeds weell doone noe faute can foyle nor deathe
 the same expell ;
 Nor ruste nor tonge can tuch his life, nor furies
 laight can quell
 Nor thoghe that deathe dothe put downe life, &
 nature yealde her dewe,
 Yete this Towne shall from age to age his Pearles
 fame renew.
 The living and the unborne tow, and all that shall
 succede,
 The roofes and walls shall blase his fame, for this
 his worthy deede
 His endless labour in this case deserues an endless
 crowne
 With goulden garlands of great thankes, and
 wraythes of high renounne.
 The Soun shall witness of his woorks, surmayde with
 his bemes so brighte
 Soe shall the moone and statly stars, that vewe the
 same by nighte.
 And all good hearts shall yeald him prayse and
 monument his name,
 And so long as the world endures shall spread
 abroad his fame."

I fear it must be added that this ancient relic of
 NANTWICH in its desolation and sorrow has, within the
 last 50 years, been improved off the face of the earth,—
 scarcely an act deserving commendation, or respectful
 to so genuine a benefactor.

The name of the author of this Epitaph has not been
 handed down to us ; but this is the less to be regretted
 as the efforts of his muse scarcely rise, I fear, to the
 dignity of poetry.

I turn now to a more worthy chronioler, one to whom
 SHAKESPEARE himself is said to have been indebted for
 more than one of his choicest similes.

GEFFREY WHITNEY, our Cheshire poet, and a native
 of Coole Pilate, near Nantwich, who was engaged at the
 date of the great Fire on his *Choice of Emblemes and
 other Devises*, published three years afterwards, thus
 refers prominently to the calamity, at page 177 of that
 curious book, under the Emblem of the Phoenix :—

"To my countrimen of the Namptwiche in
 Cheshire.

The Phoenix rare, with fethers freshe of hewe,
 Arabias righte, and sacred to the Sonne :
 Wheme, other birdes with wonder seeme to vewe,
 Doth line vntill a thousande yeares bee ronne :
 Then makes a pile : which, when with Sonne it
 burnes
 She flies therein, and so to ashes turnes.

Whereof, behoulde, an other Phoenix rare,
 With speede dothe rise, most beautifull and faire :
 And thoughte for truthe, this manie doe declare,
 Yet thereunto, I meane not for to sweare :

Although I knowe that Ancthors witnes true
 What here I write, bothe of the oulde, and newe.

Which when I wayed, the newe, and eke the oulde
 I thought vppon your towne destroyed with fire :
 And did in minde, the newe NAMPTWICHE behoulde,
 A spectacle for anie mans desire :

Whose buildinges braue, where cinders weare but
 late,

Did represente (me thought) the Phoenix fate.

And as the oulde was manie hundreth yeares,
 A towne of fame, before it felt that crosse :
 Euen so, (I hope) this WICHE, that nowe appeares,
 A Phoenix age shall laste, and knowe no losse :
 Which GOD vouchsafe, who make you thankfull,
 all :

That see this rise, and sawe the other fall."

T. HUGHES.

[936]

CHESTER BELL-RINGERS.

Early in the century (as has latterly come to be the
 case again in our own times) the church bells of Chester
 were in the charge of a company of campanologists,
 who made a tour of the city belfries on joyful occasions,
 ringing merry peals from each in as rapid succession as
 possible. When a marriage occurred in the ranks of
 the local upper ten, the Ringers were early in the field
 on the auspicious day ; and after sending forth a few
 animating peals to commemorate the marriage, waited
 on the happy couple before the old slippers came into
 play at their departure for the honeymoon, and
 "craved their gratuity," as the following letter, still
 extant, in a Chester scrap book, very fully declares :—

"To The Hon'ble Major EDWARD TOWNSEND, Esq'r.

We the Ringers of the Several Parish Churches
 within the ancient City of Chester, having congratulated
 your Hon'r with that Demonstration of Joy by
 Ringing all the Bells belonging to our Several
 Churches, for Joy of your happy Marriage with the
 most amiable Miss BALDWIN, Wishes your Hon'r
 with your Virtuous Bride all the health and happi-
 ness this Word Can Aford, and we humbly crave
 your gratuity &c."

At the PRINCE OF WALES' visit to Chester in 1869,
 and again at the coming of age of EARL GROSVENOR in
 1874, the Church Bells of Chester were rung after
 the above fashion by a company, and their expenses
 borne by the local funds collected for those locally
 auspicious days.

M. L. T.

EPIGRAMS.

[937]

STOCKPORT BEAUTIES.

It is said that the young lasses of STOCKPORT were,
 at one time, say early in this century, so noted for
 heir good looks that they formed the subject of a

popular local ballad. Surely this can scarcely be true: for in my rather frequent visits to that North Cheshire town, I cannot remember to have been struck with any such peculiarity. On the contrary, as it has always seemed to me, the faces of the young unmarried females are strongly marked with a hard worn, washed-out, woe-begone look, traceable mainly no doubt to the toil they from childhood undergo in the mills of the town. Certainly, if I mistake not, a rosy and pretty cheek is not often seen fitting about the streets of STOCKPORT, at least among the class I have named. But however this may be, I should like to learn some particulars about the ballad.

Birkenhead.

LUCY D. T.

[988]

BISHOP PEPLOR.

I am much obliged to your various contributors who gave the particulars as to BISHOP PEPLOR, published in yours of 5th November.

Can any of them further oblige me by furnishing information whom the Bishop's son SAMUEL married, and what livings he, the latter, held besides his Chancellorship?

S.

[939]

COPPER MINES IN CHESHIRE.

In an old number of the *Mining Journal* it is incidentally mentioned that a portion of the county of CHESTER was at one time worked for copper. Have any traces survived of this important branch of industry; and what district of the county was it, that was thus invaded by the hammer of the miner?

L. L.

Replies.

[940] LAWSUIT ABOUT THE RIVER DEE FISHERY.

[No. 865.—Oct. 22.]

We fell into a slight topographical error in our remarks on the above subject, which we hasten to correct at the earliest moment. There are two places named LEA in Cheshire, —one near Aldford on the Dee, and the other near Backford in Wirral. Though the GLASBOYS were connected slightly with property in the vicinity of the first-named place, it was LEA, near Backford, that was the seat of that family for several descents, and that was the one referred to in the quoted Accounts of the "DRAWERS IN DEE."

EDITOR.

[941]

REV. THOMAS ALCOCK.

[No. 897, 921.—Nov. 12, 26.]

It may be interesting to note that ASTON, in the Parish of RUNCORN, was the birth-place of VICAR

ALCOCK, as also of DR. ALCOCK, his elder brother. In the Register of that Chapelry the following entries appear:—

"Nathan, son of David Alcock, of Aston, bapt'd Oct. 9, 1707.

Thomas son of David Alcock, of Aston, bapt'd Oct. 27, 1709."

Aston.

E. M.

DECEMBER 17, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Dec. 17.—Malpas National School founded by Richard Alport	1709
„ 18.—Hugh Cholmondeley, Dean of Chester, born	1772
„ 19.—Dean and Chapter of Chester's lands granted by Queen Elizabeth to the Fee Farmers	1578
„ 20.—Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man, born at Burton, in Wirral	1663
„ 23.—County Meeting held at Bunbury to conclude a local Peace to last during the Civil War	1642

J. H.

Original Documents.

[942] THE CIVIL WAR IN CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IN 1643-4.

From the MS. Papers preserved at SANDFORD, I have now the pleasure to put on permanent record the following interesting memoranda relating to the Civil War in CHESHIRE and SALOP in the years 1643-4. The chronicler was Mr. FRANCIS SANDFORD, one of the two gallant royalist officers and brothers, of whose exploits THE SHEAF has already had much that was new and interesting to tell. No doubt some of the events recorded in this scrap of border chronology have been long matters of history; but some, on the other hand, are as certainly new to local story.

"1643.

Jan'y. The 12 of this moneth, in the night, S'r Nicho: Byron, and S'r Richard Willeis, and other Commanders weare taken at Ellismere by the Parliment forces, beinge goeing with seven barrells of powder and some other munission to the NANTWICH, to the lo: Byron.

The 18 day littenant Collonell Boulton and Capitaine Sandford [the writer's brother] weare slaine at the Nantwich in stormeing the towne.

The 25 of this moneth the lo: Byron left the seige at the Nantwich and meett the parliment

forces, neare Aighton [and] had a great fight, wheare in he lost. . . .

febr'y. The 19 of this moneth Prince Rupert Came to Shrewsbury with 600 horse.

March. The 4 of this moneth in the night, beinge shrofe munday, Prince Rupert with 500 foote and 300 horse mett with the rebels neare Drayton, vpon Tyrley heate, routed them and chased through the towne to theire bodie of horse that stooode in the feild neare Shephards bridge. Vpon the Princes persute they all fled into Tunstall ground and looked vp the gate with a Chaine, but the Prince broke throwe and Chased them through Betton and Norton and Beareson; in which persute he tooke 34 prisoners and killed diuers of them. [He] lay in Drayton all night, and the next day returned to Shrewsbury.

The 8 of this moneth theare was drawne out of Shrewsbury two Culverins and two demi-culverins towards Hopton Castell, which the Rebels had possessed them selves of.

The 10 of this moneth Prince Rupert tooks his iorney towards Chester, and returned the 14 of the same.

The 13:, Hopton Castell was taken by Commaund of the Prince, and Collonell Woodhouse put the' all to the sword except Mr. More; the nu'ber that kept it beinge 39 Common Soldiers, whoe tooke it about 10 dayes before from S'r Vincett Corbetts men.

The 15:, Prince went out with one thousand foote and 600 horse for rayseinge of the seige att Newark.

The 18:, Bramton Brion was besieged by our men.

The 23:, theare was a Culverine drawne out for the battery of Apley Castell, which was taken by Mitton and the Parl'ment men the 17 of this p'sent: and vpon the 24 of this moneth retaken by Collonell Ellis and S'r [? William] Vaughan, whoe Commaunded three troupe of horse.

1644.

March. The 25, Mitton haneinge drawne to geather about 310 horse, and a hundred foote for the relesinge of Apley house, was mett by S'r William Vaughan and Collonell Ellis neare Longford with our forces, wheare they killed neare vpon 200 of the Rebellas, and tooke 45 prisoners. Captaine Crofts was killed at this time.

My 10: Byron, the 26: 27: 28: 29: 30, haneinge driven the rebels out of Hanmer, Emerall, Willington, Betelfeild and the ffens housses vpon the 31 of this moneth, faced Wem, and soe returned towards Chester vpon some designe.

April. The 4 of this moneth, Prince Rupert returned to Shrewsbury, haneinge vtterly defeated the Rebels, the 20 of March, that lay before Newarke, vnder the Command of S'r John Meldru'; and tooke from them 13 peices of Ordinance and two greate mortar peices, one a Basillike of full 4 yeards longe, [&c., &c.], with armes for foure or fve thousand men, 40 barralls of powder, and great store of mach and bullett.

The 23 of this moneth, Prince Rupert went to Oxforde to the Kinge, leaninge his armie heare in Shrewsbury.

May. The 8 of this moneth Prince Rupert returned to Shrewsbury from the Court, beinge then at Oxforde.

The 16 of this moneth, haneinge reposed him selfe went out with his armie towards Wem (and before the reare had left the towne theare happened the greatest Storme of Hayle and rayne that ever I had seene; some stones beinge taken vp as bigg as any pigions egge).

June 22. The lord of Denbigh & Mitton tooke Oswestrie, and the Castell was delivered the next day by S'r Abram Shipman's men, he him selfe beinge then at Shrewsburie.

June 28. S'r flulke Hunkes, Colonell Marrow with Shropshire men, Chessire, Denbigh, and flinte beleagured the towne, and made one breache, but were driven of by Denbigh and S'r Thomas Middell-ton, the second of July; Mr. francis Newport, eldest sonne to the lo: Newport, taken prisoner. Captaine Robert Sandford and Mr. Edward Owen hurt, but Cleared themselves and Came of.

July 4. The Earle of Denbigh, Midelton, Mitton, and Mackworth, weare soe hartened with rayseinge the seige as afores'd, that they came on to Shrewsbury, hopeinge to find some such partie in the towne that might give them entrance, but weare driven backe from fottericke ? well workes, with same [? shame] and losse.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[949] CAPTAIN GEORGE FARMER, R.N.

It is just a hundred years ago since this gallant captain and his crew performed the deed of bravery mentioned in the following despatch, and for which service his son, then a boy at Eton, was created a Baronet. He was the founder of a family well known in Chester, which for a long period resided in Newgate-street. This is the same Captain FARMER to whom reference is made by Southey, in his *Life of Nelson*, thus:—"In 1776 he (HORATIO NELSON) sailed in H.M.S. 'Seahorse' under Captain FARMER, who then rated him as midshipman, and he thus obtained the first step to rank as an officer of the British Navy." The despatch I have copied from the *London Gazette* of October 12th, 1779, and runs thus:—

Admiralty Office, October 12th.

Sir Charles Hardy in his letter of the 9th instant to Mr. Stephens has enclosed a letter from Lieut. George of the "Rambler" cutter; and Lieut. Michell, the Regulating Officer at Dartmouth, has likewise enclosed in his letter of the same date a letter from Mr. Valentine

an officer of the Revenue at Salcombe, giving an account of an engagement between H.M.S. the "Quebec" and a French Frigate of 40 guns,—of which the following are copies:—

'Rambler' at Spithead,
October 9th, 1779.

Sir,
I beg leave to acquaint you that on Wednesday the 6th instant, being then in company with H.M.S. "Quebec," Ushant bearing South 15 Leagues, at Day-break we discovered three sail to Leeward in the S.W. Quarter. CAPTAIN FARMER made the signal for the "Rambler" to come under his stern, which I obeyed; he then asked me what I thought of them? I told him I thought a ship, a cutter, and a Dutch Hoy. He replied he would go down and see what they were, and ordered me to keep close to him. At half past eight, we plainly perceived two of them to be a large French Frigate and a Cutter. At nine the enemy's Frigate began to fire at the "Quebec," but at too great a distance to do any execution. At ten the "Quebec," being within Point-Blank shot of the enemy, hoisted her colours, and returned their fire; still edging down to come to a close engagement, till she was alongside the French Frigate. I immediately hoisted my colours, and stood in between the French Frigate and the Cutter, with an intent to cut her off from her consort, and bring her to a close engagement; which I effected, and began to engage her at 11 o'clock close alongside. I then found her force to be sixteen six-pounders, and full of men. We continued to engage her in the same position till within a few minutes of two o'clock, when she set all the sail she could crowd, and bore from us; we not having the luck to carry away anything material, the "Rambler," having her garf shot away, topmast shot through, the top-sail hallyards and most of her standing and running rigging gone, and the main-sail rendered unserviceable, was incapable of following her with any hopes of coming up with her. At the same time, seeing both Frigates dismasted, and the "Quebec" take fire, I endeavoured to get as near the latter as possible, in hopes of saving some of her men; but there being but little wind and a great swell, found I could assist her no other way but by hoisting out boat; which I effected, and sent the Master and five men armed in her, who picked up the Master's Mate, two young Midshipmen, and fourteen more of the "Quebec's" people, the enemy's frigate at the same time firing at the boat. As the "Rambler" was a considerable distance to leeward of the "Quebec" I thought it would be in vain to send a second time.

I want words sufficient to describe the noble and gallant manner of Captain FARMER's engaging the enemy for upwards of three hours and a half that he lay alongside the Frigate, which carried twenty-eight eighteen-pounders on her main deck and twelve guns on her quarter-deck and fore-castle. The "Quebec" continued burning very fiercely, with her colours flying, till six o'clock, when she blew up! I am much afraid from the report of Mr. William Moore, one of the Master's Mates

of the "Quebec," that Captain FARMER and his officers that were alive when he left the "Quebec" shared the fate of the ship. I must beg leave at the same time to recommend to you, sir, the officers and crew of the "Rambler," who did everything that might be expected from Englishmen. I am happy to say our loss consists of only one man, who has lost his leg; the pilot shot through the arm with a musquet-ball, and several slightly wounded, as the enemy aimed at our masts and rigging, in which they succeeded too well. From the cutters's not returning the fire for two or three broadsides before she bore away, and seeing but few men on her decks, I conclude she suffered considerably.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedt. servt.,

JAMES GEORGE.

To Sir Chas. Hardy, Knt.,
Admiral of the White,
and Commander-in-Chief,
&c., &c.

Salcombe, October 9th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Last night was brought in here, in a Topsham pilot boat, thirteen of the "Quebec" frigate, Captain FARMER, which was blown up in an engagement with a French forty-gun ship, the 5th of this instant, about 14 leagues SW. of Ushant. They were taken from the wreck by a Prussian vessel, and put on board the pilot boat five leagues off the Bolt. There were about fourteen more poor souls left on another part of the wreck; but a heavy squall came on, which prevented the vessel taking them up. The people saw the captain leap overboard, and endeavour to swim to one of our cutters which was in company with them, but whether he was saved or not they cannot tell. [This statement afterwards proved to be incorrect.] The Frenchmen had all their masts shot away. The captain's clerk is one of the persons brought in here, who desires the Regulating Captain at Dartmouth may be made acquainted with their situations. Three of the men are greatly wounded. I sent for a doctor from Kingsbridge to dress their wounds last night, and have taken all the care possible of them. The "Quebec's" mast was all shot away before she blew up; they had about 80 men killed and wounded. The purser, in endeavouring to swim to these poor souls, was drowned.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD VALLENTINE.

P.S.—I hope Captain Michell will send the poor souls some relief immediately, as they are almost naked. The engagement began about nine o'clock in the morning, yard arm to yard arm, and lasted till two, when the Frenchman ceased fire. The sails of the "Quebec" took fire from her own guns, and she blew up about six o'clock.

To the Collector and Comptroller of
H.M. Customs at Dartmouth.

The following is an extract from the London letter of the *Chester Chronicle* of the 22nd October, 1779, referring to the engagement:—

Captain FARMER, of the "Quebec," who was unfortunately blown up, had his arm broken towards the conclusion of the engagement. He tied his handkerchief round the shattered part of the bone, and then addressed his men in the following terms:—"My lads, this is warm work, and therefore keep up your fire with double spirit; we will die or conquer!" Captain Farmer, we hear, has left a wife and nine children. His son is now at Eton School.

Curson Park.

HENRY TAYLOR.

Queries.

[944] WILBRAHAM OF BODE PEDIGREE.

A curious and amusing genealogical blunder has been printed in the above Pedigree in the *New ORMEROD*, III., p. 55, which will require correction, viz.: that JOHN CREWE, the contemporary of Richard Wilbraham, of Nantwich, and father of the celebrated Lord Chief Justice, Sir RANULPH CREWE, married *his own grandmother* (!) Jane Crewe [née Wilbraham], who is wrongly stated in the pedigree to have been the sister of the aforesaid Richard Wilbraham.

Willaston, Nantwich.

JAS. HALL.

[945] A TERRA INCOGNITA ON THE DEE.

There is a picturesque cottage, standing on a little plot of land on the margin of the River Dee, close to the CHESTER CEMETERY. What is the history of this small "intake," if I may so call it? It must have been, within comparatively modern times, part of the very bed of the river!

H. S. A.

Replies.

[946] THOMAS PARNELL, D.D.

[Nos. 771, 806, 923.—Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Nov. 26.]

Dr. THOMAS PARNELL may fairly be claimed as a Cheshire poet, born as he was of Cheshire parents, owning property in the county, and dying in the City of CHESTER. We are assured by Goldsmith that he "was descended from an ancient family that had for some centuries been settled at CONGLETON in Cheshire;" and that his father at the Restoration went to Ireland, where he purchased estates, and which, with those "he was possessed of in Cheshire, descended to our poet, who was his eldest son, and still remain in the family."

LYSONS (*Cheshire*, p. 633) states "he was descended from a family of that name many years settled at Congleton." There is, therefore, no excuse for excluding him from the list of the "Worthies of Cheshire."

Goldsmith (collected ed. of his *Works*, 1821, vol. 4, pages 3 to 29) has written the best and most extended biography of our poet; an abridgement of which Johnson made use of in his *Lives of the Poets* ("I have made an abstract from his larger narrative," writes Johnson). I do not here intend alluding to his *Works* further than mentioning that both Goldsmith and Johnson give the titles of them. "Pope himself was not only excessively fond of his company, but [was] under several literary obligations to him for his assistance in the translation of *Homer*." Of his intimacy with Pope, several letters from that poet to him, which appear at length in Goldsmith's Biographical Account, will amply prove. From one of these I extract the following quaint conclusion:—

"You are a generous author; I, a hackney scribbler: you, a Grecian, and bred at a University; I, a poor Englishman, of my own educating: you, a reverend parson, I, a wag: in short, you are Dr. Farnelle (with one e, at the end of your name), and I

Your most obedient and affectionate
Friend and faithful servant,

A. POPE.

It is not a little singular that the assigned dates both of his death and of his interment vary considerably. It would appear that Goldsmith is mainly responsible for the generally received date of death. According to his account (p. 5), PARNELL "died at Chester in July, 1717, on his way to Ireland." This was copied by Johnson, and accepted as correct by the editors of various biographical dictionaries and encyclopædias. Your correspondents "A. A." (No. 717) and Mr. "W. M. GIBBON" (No. 923) mention the same date. Goldsmith's error was evidently unintentional, and was so far rectified by him that a few pages further on (p. 22) we read "he died in the year 1718." According to the same writer, "on the 31st of May, 1716, he was presented * * to the vicarage of Finglass, * * but he lived to enjoy his preferment a very short time." Instead of this latter italicised portion of the sentence, Johnson substituted "*little more than a year*." This would have been correct had 1717 been the actual year of his death; as it was, he held his preferment for more than two years. In an edition of Johnson's *Lives*, &c., published in 1854, the editor has altered the date of Parnell's death to 1718, without, however, changing the character of the sentence just quoted.

Whatever be the date of his death, the interment of his remains in Trinity Church did not take place for several months afterwards. According to HEMINGWAY (*Cheshire*, vol. 2, p. 97), "he was interred in this church, October 24th, 1718." There is a similar account in LYSONS (*Cheshire*, p. 633), with this addition, "as

appears by an entry in the parish registers." Your correspondent "R. M." (No. 806), as an apparent quotation from the Trinity registers, assigns the date of burial to January 29th, 1718! After further investigation I believe it will be found that the poet died in July, 1718, and was interred in Trinity Church in the following October.

Notwithstanding the EDITOR's remarks (No. 923) as to the probability of a memorial of the poet having formerly, in the early part of this century, been affixed to the west wall of the church, and having been subsequently removed by some person unknown; I venture to doubt the correctness of this suggestion, and to hope, for the credit of the parochial authorities, it is not true. Goldsmith distinctly states "he * * was buried in Trinity Church * * without any monument to mark the place of his interment." LYSONS' work, published in 1810, and HEMINGWAY's in 1831, contain no allusion to any such memorial. The same may be said of ORMEROD.

I would earnestly urge that in the first place the Trinity Church registers should be again carefully examined, so as to settle authoritatively the date of the poet's burial. This will indirectly assist in pointing out the probable date of death. And in the second, to then call the attention of the local authorities, and of all who are desirous of perpetuating the memory of one of the "Worthies of Cheshire," to the desirability of erecting in the church some fitting record—such as a tablet—of PARNELL's remains. It scarcely seems credible, and is certainly not creditable, that one of Cheshire's leading poets, a contributor to the *Spectator*, the friend and fellow-worker of Pope, the author of the *Life of Homer* prefixed to Pope's Translation, should be buried without some mark to record his last resting-place. Certainly in matters like this, it is otherwise the practice on the Continent, where not only the place of interment, but also the place where a great man dwelt, bear some form of stone record.

In conclusion, let me draw attention to the following lines, which first appeared in the *Chester Courant* for March 24th, 1858:—

"LINES TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS PARNELL,
A Poet of no mean celebrity, who lies interred in Trinity Church, Chester, without a stone to mark the spot.

'His poetry is like a flower that has been trained and planted by the skill of the gardener, but which preserves, in its cultured state, the natural fragrance of its wilder air.'—*Campbell*.

Tho' no high sculptur'd tablet bears thy name,

Not e'en a stone to say 'Here PARNELL lies';

Thou hast inscrib'd it in the book of fame,

Where genius spreads her wings before our eyes.

There we can see thee in thy brighter hours,

Training with skilful hand thy favourite flowers;

Before domestic sorrow wrung thy soul,

And steep'd thy senses in the fated bowl.

If like the 'hermit' thou hadst lived secure,

A happier lot might, truly, have been thine—

Affliction's hand were lighter to endure—

Thy end more worthy of a good divine:

But to thy genius only I would pay

This humble tribute in a simple lay.—J.W."

Brookwood, Surrey. T. N. BRUSHFIELD, M.D.

[947] ANCIENT AND MODERN CHESTER.

[Nos. 840, 881.—Oct. 8, 29.]

Your correspondent "J. H.," when referring to the Little Nag's Head (COCOA HOUSE), as restored by the Duke of Westminster, just hits upon the head the very nail which should be driven home in this old-fashioned city. We are bound to follow the times, no doubt, and we must therefore take down and rebuild; but in doing so, let restoration be our guiding star, rather than replacement.

The Duke has taken down the Old Gaol, and the Corporation are about to take down the "public" abutting upon the Market: and if the Duke and the Corporation, between them, could only manage to run up a new street from Northgate Square straight to the Walls, and then lay out the land upon the sides of the new street, for the erection of buildings, where the old style of elevation might be preserved; we might transform one of the ugliest spots in Chester to a place of beauty. The Free Library, a Museum, and similar public buildings should all be centred in that quarter. The very ugly Market could be far extended in the same direction, and a handsome north front be given to it, which would give something like a finish to that centre of the city. Let the "retired gentlemen" of the Town Council give this matter a thought; and when they have thought it well over, a hint to the Duke might bring about so beautiful a transformity in the neighbourhood of the Town Hall, upon the ancient lines of architecture, as would justify us in declaring that one part of modern Chester was equal in every respect to the more ancient one so famed in history.

A. L. O.

[948] JAMES, DUKE OF MONMOUTH.

[No. 915.—Nov. 26.]

The account of the Duke's visit is told with a different date in our local history; and it is stated that after leaving ROCK SAVAGE the Duke, attended by Lord Gerard, Mr. Crewe, and others, proceeded through Appleton to Lord Delamere's house at Dunham Massey. As they passed over Stoaken Heath (so Stockton Heath is spelled in the account) they were met and entertained by the principal persons of WARRINGTON.

In the local account this progress is said to have been made in 1682; but your correspondent's account is most probably correct as to the date, and he would confer a favour by giving the name of the Huguenot gentleman who wrote the account.

Warrington.

W. B.

DECEMBER 24, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

- Dec. 24.—Major Roger Barnston, of Crewe Hill, Farndon, mortally wounded at the Relief of Lucknow..... 1857
- „ 25.—The Sheriff of Chester's Christmas Feast to the Industrial Schools commenced by Sheriff Oakes..... 1861
- „ 26.—Rowton and Morball's Bank opened in Commercial Buildings, Northgate-street, Chester 1808
- „ 27.—Duke of Wellington visited Chester..... 1820
- „ 28.—Crewe Hall capitulated for want of ammunition 1643
- „ 29.—Dr. William Cleaver appointed Bishop of Chester 1787
- „ 30.—Chester old Exchange destroyed by fire 1862

Original Documents.**[949] CHRISTMAS BREAKFASTS AND MUMMERS AT CHESTER, IN 1556.**

In the first ASSEMBLY BOOK of the Chester Corporation, preserved in the fireproof muniment room at the Town Hall, is the following verbatim Order, a fragment of which was given by Mr. J. P. FARWAKER, in *THE SHEAF FOR CHRISTMAS, 1878* :—

“Tempore Joh'is Webster Maioris Cinit's Cestrie Annis Regnor' Phillippi et Marie Regis et Regine tercio & Quarto. [1556.]

BREAKFASTS VPON XP'EMAS DAY TO BE LEFT, AND NO MUM'ING IN TIME OF XP'EMAS.

WHEREAS Heretofore of late tyme yt Hathe bene used that diu'se of the worshipfull of this Citie haue caused breakfasts to be made in ther houses vpon Christenmas daie in the mornynge Before dyuine s'uice endyd, By reasone wherof madye dysorderid p'sons haue vsed themselves Rayther all the daye after idillie in vyse & wantonnes, then yenen themSelves holy to contemplacion and prayre, the same Saoryt holye and prysepaule feaste, according to ther most bounden dutye vnto god the sone, redemer of the worlde, who as that daye came into this worlde and was borne of on' blessed virgyn marye for the redemption of all mankynd: and to the intent the same feaste maye be the better and more hollier kept according to thorder of god and his holy churche, Mr Mayre, by the advyce of his worshipfull Brethern thaldermen of this cytie, haue thought good that breckefasts banckytte the same Christenmes daye in the morning, shall not be vsed and kept her after. [But that the same tyme euery man and woman shall endenour themselves to the heringe of godda

service,* and vse themselves in contemplac'on and prair vnto god for grace necessary and amendm't of their lives]: and you shall vnderstand that this ys not menynd but that eu'y man y't wyll vpon other dayes convenient, may bestowe the same cooste vpon ther frinds and pore nyghbores as lyberally as thaye haue byne accoustomyd other yeres before tyme to the prayse of god and contentac'o' of ther neyghbores.

And allso that no man' p'son or p'sons go abroad in this citie mum'ng in any place w'thin the same citie, ther fayses being cou'yd or dysgyssed; and that no man, of p'son or p'sones w'thin this citie suffer any p'son or p'sones to playe at any vnleaffull gaymes w'thin his or ther house or houses, w'ch be p'hibityd by any lane or statute w'thin this realme, vpon payne of imp'senment of ther bodies, and makynge fyne according to the statuts in that case providyd.”

JOHN WEBSTER was Mayor of the city in the years 1556-7, so that this Order must have been promulgated as one of his first mandates in 1556.

Ledsam.

R. M.

* Added from apparently the original draft Order preserved in the Harl. MS. 2105, fo. 322, in the British Museum.

EDITOR.

[950] CHRISTMAS PAYMENTS AT CHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1542.

Here are a few scraps culled from the first Annual Statement of Accounts laid before the Chapter of Chester in 1542, when the Cathedral Body was only just a year old. Short as had been its life so far, it was yet long enough to see the removal by death of its first Dean, Thomas Clarke (who had migrated to St. Werburgh's from a like dignity in the College of St. John's); and to hail the appointment of his successor. The new dignitary, acting as Treasurer to his Chapter for that year, presents to his brethren the following amongst many other payments from the common chest :—

“Soluc' of Henrye Man, Deane of the Cathedrall churche of Christe & o'r Ladye in Chester, from the xxixth daye of Octob' in the xxxiiijth yere of Kyng Henrye the viijth.

It' in festo mar' to Mr. Bucesey [Prebendary] for Edwarde Morecrofte, querister, dwe to hym at Christmas next folowyngxvjs. viijd.

It' to Mr. Bucesey for Ric' houghe, choristare, dwe to hym at Christmas next folowyngxvjs. viijd.

It', the iijde daye of Noue'ber to John Byrchalaye [elsewhere described as the “organ player”] for the tablyng of viij children of o'r qwere the space of iij wekes,—John Traves, Thomas Parker, Mathwe Wright, Thomas of Prestburye, Rafe Beket, Edwarde Morecroft, Ric' Houghe, Thomas Wilooke, after xij. le weke.....xxiijs.

(Payde byfore hande to the Choristars, the whiche muste be allowde of ther q'rt's wayg's at Christmas next.”)

The *Richard Houghts* named as a chorister in the above list is supposed to be identical with the afterwards celebrated Sir RICHARD CLOUGH, merchant, the servant and ultimately partner of Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange in London.

Other items of present interest to us are the following:—

"The V'ts days of Decemb'r to Mr. Paule Boswell, the kyngs skolare student in Dynynyte, for his q'rt's exhibition to be dwe at Christmas...xxxijs. iiijd."

This was one of the four students originally maintained out of the Cathedral revenues at the Universities, the celebrated Reformer, Christopher Goodman, being another. No more than five such appointments were ever made by the capitular body, owing, it is said, to the rapid declension of the Chapter's income shortly after its foundation. Returning to the accounts—

"To Mr. Newton [Prebendary] for James Boothe and Thomas Newton, skolars of the g'mar skole, for ther exhibition dweat Christmas next...xxxijs. iiijd."

This is Thomas Newton, of Butley, the Cheshire poet and author, and, I gather from the above entry, a nephew or near relative of the Prebendary.

"To Will'm Callie for wachyng iij nights...xijd.
For the Gable Rent this year.....vjs. vjd. ob."

Here we have the Dean and Chapter, as Gable Tenants to the city for certain property there, appearing by their paid Watchman on CHRISTMAS EVE to "set the watch" at the several gates of the city, as described in *THE SHEAF* for Christmas, 1878. This customary service was regularly rendered and paid for by the Dean and Chapter for many generations after this.

"To John Throppe, sargent of the cytie, for enswearyng for o'r howse in the courts of the Mayre and Sheriffs, due at Christmas last past...vjs. viijd."

The City Sergeants at Mace—in those days officers of some distinction, and often retired members of the Corporation—appear to have, as in the above instance, acted as proctors or retainers in the Pentice and Portmote Courts, to protect the interests of their clients from any sudden attack or opposition. The poor Dean and Chapter of Chester, in the 16th century, were almost continually in open legal warfare with one or other determined adversary, and sometimes indeed with half-a-dozen of them at once.

T. HUGHES.

Notes.

[951] THE GABLE RENT AT CHESTER.

In the *Domesday Book of Cheshire and Lancashire*, as edited and translated by Mr. W. BEAMONT, we have the very earliest existing reference to this curious and accustomed Tenure at CHESTER:—

"Whoso did not pay his gabel (i.e., not only the annual reserved rent, but also the peculiar service due to the King, or other superior authority, at the time appointed, CHRISTMAS), forfeited 'x shillings.' But if he was unwilling or unable to pay or perform it, the præfect or sheriff took his land into the King's hand."

This duty was no doubt often felt irksome enough by the great families who usually farmed the Gabel land of the city. As time advanced, too, the responsibility would certainly have been shirked, if it could have been done with impunity; but the "x shillings" annual fine, and the danger of the property becoming forfeited to the King and the city, effectually prevented the custom from falling into desuetude. It is only within our own day that, for a mere mess of pottage, the City has bartered away for ever this ancient and picturesque custom, involving the original title to the soil of rare old Chester.

G. T.

[952] THINGS I REMEMBER, No. 9.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING.

Nearly half a century ago, I remember being roused up by my late father at five o'clock one CHRISTMAS morning, and taken to the Roman Catholic chapel in Queen-street, to see a representation of the Holy Babe in the Manger, as there exhibited to the crowd of devotees. As my recollection goes, we had to deposit a small fee at the door before we entered: but be that so or no, the sight presented at the altar greatly impressed me at the time by its novelty, and the spectacle, for such it really was to my childish intelligence, remains fresh in my mind to the present hour.

From thence we repaired to the CATHEDRAL, where we attended a service more in accord with our own traditions, in the old Lady Chapel, years before it had been metamorphosed by the hand of the restorer. I often, in after years, attended this Christmas Morning six o'clock service at the Cathedral: but my first visit to the "Holy Manger" at Queen-street was also my last; and I know not whether the custom I have referred to is still kept up, or, if not, when it ceased.

CAMBRO-BRITON.

[953] THE LORD OF MISRULE.

In a MS. LIST OF MAYORS OF CHESTER, prior to 1617, in my collection, is the following notice of the Mayoral Festivities there in the year 1567, under the auspices of the then Mayor:—

"1567. RICHARD DUTTON, Esq., Maior. He kepte howse at the White Freeyers, and in all the twelue dayes of Christmas kepte open howse for meate and drynke, at meale tyme, for any that came. All the Christmas tyme was a Lo: of Misrule."

WEBB, in the *Vale Royal*, and under the same year, records that "This year the Whitson Playes were played, and diuers other pastimes"; no doubt referring

amongst others, to the "Lord of Misrule" as named above. Mr. Mayor Dutton is also recorded in his same year, of office to have had the White Freers Lane, in which he lived, paved for the first time.

T. HUGHES.

[954] A CHRISTMAS MUNICIPAL CONTEST
AT CHESTER.

On Saturday, December 26th, 1835, the first Election of TOWN COUNCILLORS under the new Municipal Reform Act took place in CHESTER; and on the following Monday, the Assessors for the various wards appeared in the Pentice Court, and delivered their returns to his Worship. They were read over by the Town Clerk, and the Mayor, GEORGE HARRISON, Esq., declared the following gentlemen duly elected:—

BOUGHTON WARD.

Thomas Dixon	225
Edward S. Walker	210
John Kearsley	180
William Brown	173
William Seller	147
Joseph Janion	99

274 burgesses voted, and 41 candidates were voted for.

ST. JOHN'S WARD.

John Palin	147
George Allender	125
Henry Brown	102
Robert Whitley	95
George B. Granville	84
William Harling	71

197 burgesses voted, and 33 candidates were voted for.

ST. MARY'S WARD.

Edward Duaker	133
Samuel Witter	106
Charles Gamon	97
Gabriel Roberts	64
Matthew Harrison	52
Thomas Nicholls	51

153 burgesses voted, and 41 candidates were voted for.

ST. OSWALD'S WARD.

William Cross	147
Henry Kelsall	129
Benjamin Brassey	113
John Grindley	95
James Dickson	75
Alexander Booth	71

159 burgesses voted, and 45 candidates were voted for.

TRINITY WARD.

John Hassall	140
William Mulvey	130
Thomas Griffith	128
Samuel Soorn	112
George Harrison	94
William Wardell	90

190 burgesses voted, and 32 candidates were voted for.

On New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31, the following were elected Aldermen:—

Thomas Dixon	E. Duaker
E. S. Walker	J. Hassall
W. Brown	W. Cross
G. Allender	H. Kelsall
G. B. Granville	A. Booth

And on Friday, January 1, 1836, the Council met for the Election of Mayor and other officers; when Mr. WILLIAM CROSS was elected on a division, the numbers being Mr. Cross 14, Mr. T. DIXON 12. The choice for Sheriff fell upon Mr. Robert Whitley. Mr. John Finchett-Maddock was unanimously re-elected Town Clerk, and Mr. Thomas Snape was elected to fill the office of Clerk of the Peace. This office was contested by Mr. Thomas Finchett-Maddock, Mr. John Faulkner, junr., and Mr. T. Snape. On a division, the numbers were Mr. Snape 12, Mr. Faulkner 11, and Mr. T. Finchett-Maddock 5."

Ledsham.

R. M.

Of all the foregoing prominent citizens in 1835, two only remain to us after a lapse of 44 years, viz:—Mr. Matthew Harrison and Mr. Thomas Finchett-Maddock. One other of those named in the list, the late Alderman Thomas Griffith, after a long and honourable life passed, most of it, in the service of his native city, has only within the last two months passed away to his last home, respected by all.

EDITOR.

[955] CHESHIRE BOYS' AND GIRLS' GAMES,
17TH CENTURY.

The following quotation from RANDLE HOLME'S Cheshire MSS., given in *Notes and Queries*, 2nd series, Vol. 2, p. 487, is well worth embalming in the CHESHIRE SHEAF. It will, we think, puzzle young and old of both sexes in the present day to describe some of the Games popular with their forefathers of the Stuart times.

'Ancient Customs in Games used by boys and girls, merily sett out in verse.

Any they dare challenge for to throw the alundge,
To Jumps or leape over dike or hedge;
To wrastle, play at stocleball, or to Runne,
To pich the barre, or to shoote off a Gonne;
To play at Loggets, nine holes, or ten pinnes,
To trye it out at foote-ball, by the shinnes,
At Tick tacks, Irish, noddie, maw and Ruffe,
At hott cockley, leape frogge, or blindmans buffe;
To drink the halph potts or deale at the whole can,
To play at chesse, or pen and ink-horn John;
To daunce the morris, play at barley breake,
At all explayts a man can think or speake;
At above groate, venterpoynte, or crosse and pile,
At beehrow him that's last at any style;
At leaping ore a CHRISTMAS EVE bonedier,
Or at the drawinge danne out of the myer,
At Shoote Cooke, gregory, stocleball and what not,
Picks-poynt topp and scourge to make him hott."

EDITOR.

[956] A STORMY CHRISTMAS DAY.

The following "seasonable" quotation from a Chester paper for January 1, 1853, is entitled to a permanent home in THE CHRISTMAS SHEAF:—

"On CHRISTMAS morning, soon after one o'clock, the neighbourhood of CHESTER was visited with a terrific STORM. The wind was blowing S.S.W., and continued unabated in its fury until about eight o'clock. When daylight dawned, the streets were found to be strewn with debris, and many houses were partially, some totally, unroofed. The vane at the new SAVINGS BANK, Grosvenor-street, was removed from its elevation, and lay broken on a portion of the roof. The flint stone, which weighs upwards of six cwt., was also carried away by the fury of the wind. In the BISHOPS FIELDS, on the Hoole Road, several houses, in course of erection, were very much injured, nearly blown down in fact: trees were uprooted and walls levelled with the ground. The effect of the storm was felt all over the country."

Ledsham.

R. M.

[957] THE CHRISTMAS HIRING.

The individual named in the following Warrant had engaged himself to an ancestor of mine at the Annual Hiring of Farm Servants the CHRISTMAS before, and had forsaken his master's service before the expiration of the term. This Annual Hiring was until almost the present day the uniform custom of the county. But it was an inconvenient custom, for it deprived the farmers of their servants' help all through the festivities of the Christmas week; so that the buxom wife and daughters of the household had to buckle to, and take the work upon themselves, as well as see to the entertainment of their guests. The Cheshire yeoman's daughters of those days could milk the cows, churn the milk, make the cheese, brew the beer, see to the garden and bees, do the cooking, make the beds, tidy the rooms, scrub the floors, kindle the fire, and do most other things about the house and farm, as well as, and often better than, the servants: so that a Cheshire dairyman's daughter was a genuine prize to the happy young farmer who wooed and won her and, in the end, took her to his home, in those far remote days when the Second George ruled our land.

"CHESHIRE, to witt.

To the Constables of HUNTINGTON.

These are in his Majesty's name to com'nd you, upon Sight hereof, to attach the Body of Joseph Broade, of your Said Township, and bring him before me, or some other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County, to answer unto Such Matters as shall be objected against him by Jonathan Colley of Churton Heath, for him Departing from his Servis, without his Leave or Consent, and before the end of the term that he had Hired him. And hereof fail not at your peril. Given under my Hand and Seal this 20th Day of August, 1735.

E. Ll. Gwyllym @"

Newton.

T. D. C.

[958] AUGUSTUS CÆSAR AT CHESTER.

On CHRISTMAS EVE, twenty one years ago, an intelligent American farmer called on me with an introduction from a mutual friend in the States; and he soon let me know that his great desire in visiting Chester was to see for himself our famous city walls, and to feast his eyes upon something that was undoubtedly Roman. I at once sallied out with him to show him our city lions, of course taking care to point out any prominent Roman relic which fell in our way, all which little bits of attention gratified him mightily.

We had finished our pleasant round, and were about to part company, when our friend hung back, and fidgetted about a little, having evidently something upon his mind. After a moment's pause, he stammered out "Well, sir, you've satisfied me, all out, that yours is a genuine Roman city, but—you couldn't just show me a real living Roman!, could you now?" "I don't know whether I can't," said I; "for just look at that donkey-cart now passing!" And there, sure enough, on the name-plate, was painted in good bold letters, "Augustus Cæsar, Furniture Remover, &c.!" "Well!" exclaimed the American, amazed if not subdued, "that beats me all to nothing! I'll go back to the States and tell my friends there that Chester's out of sight the oldest and strangest of all the old places in the known world. Fancy my seeing Augustus Cæsar driving a donkey cart!—nothing in creation can ever lick that! Good bye!" And he went his way, a thoroughly satisfied, though not perhaps a much wiser, man.

I saw him next day at the Cathedral, in the afternoon; but as I was ensconced in the "pigeon holes," as the galleries then existing behind the carved tabernacle work used to be called, he could not see, or at all events recognise, me. He was manifestly impressed with the whole service and its surroundings; but as he listened to the strains of the Christmas anthem pealed forth by the full choir, his fortitude gave way, and I saw the hard cheek of the Pennsylvanian farmer glisten in the gaslight with an unbidden tear, the outcome of his novel position, and a silent testimony to the genius of the mighty Handel!

We may take it for granted that, what with the old city, its relics, its Walls, its Rows, and its Cathedral, but especially I think with his passing introduction to Cæsar, our American cousin did not very quickly forget that same CHRISTMAS in Chester.

T. HUGHES.

[959] THE CHESHIRE COTTAGERS' CHRISTMAS GOOSE.

The return of the agricultural servants to their parents' hearths at Christmas, is naturally with them a pleasant event. On these happy occasions, one of the signs of welcome in the family circles was a custom, the grotesqueness of which seems almost an excuse for its appearing in these columns,

Whilst the family were sitting by the fire at night discussing domestic and household topics, one would steal out and go to the fowlhouse, secure a gander, plump and fat, and by the aid of a ladder climb to the roof of the cottage. Having perched himself in a secure position, he would thrust down the chimney the struggling gander, which by its weight and wings would perform the duty of a sweep; and when both the bird and soot reached the fire, a general rush would be made for the door. But alas! this would be found fastened by means of a stick placed in the latch and fitted across the door. Meanwhile the tormentor comes down from the roof, and is heard laughing outside, whereupon chaffing and threats are exchanged between the prisoners and their goaler; who, when he thinks them sufficiently well tired of gander and soot, opens the door and allows them to escape.

I know not if this rough Christmas Welcome was a merely local or a general one, but I should think most probably the former. J. H.

DECEMBER 31, 1879.

Weekly Diary of Local Events.

Dec. 31.—Beilby Porteus made Bishop of Chester	1776
Jan. 1.—Frodsham Manor leased to Ralph Birkenhead	1496
„ 2.—Menai Bridge opened for traffic.....	1825
„ 4.—Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia visited Chester.....	1817

J. H.

Original Documents.

[960] ST. PETER'S CHURCH CHIMES, CHESTER.

I send for insertion in THE SHEAF, in its closing number for the year, the following curious Order of the CHESTER HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY relative to the Chimes of ST. PETER'S CHURCH at the High Cross:—

“At an ASSEMBLY holden in the Come' hall of pleas within the Citty of Chester, the xij day of December, 1600, Anno E'rne Elizabeth', &c., quadragesimo tertio, before Robert Brerewood, maior of the said Citty.

The Leavelookers for the years paste, not observing the usuall Order of sendings of wyne, to pay five poundes to this incorporation, as alsoe xx's to repaier the chymes.

“MOREOVER Whereas heretofore by all the tyme whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, there hath bene yearly eu'y years, at iiii' or seuerall

festivall Dayes and tymes in the years, geeven and sent by the Leanelookers of this citie, for the tyme beinge certeine quantity of wyne to the maior, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Sheriffe peeres, and to others of the counsell of this citty, Which said custome and vsage Xp'ofor Conway and John Ratolyffe the younger, Leanelookers of this citie the last yeere, haue not observed and kept, but at three sen'al feaste Daies, viz. :—Xp'amas, Easter, and Whitsonntide last, did neglecte the sendings thereof. Vppon considerac'on of which said Offence and Default, and vppon their Submission vnto the order of this Assembly touchinge the same, It is thought meete and soe ordered by the said Mayor, Aldermen, Sherifes, and Co'en Counsell of this citty that the said Xp'ofor Conway and John Ratolyffe shall, either of them, paie forthwith to the Thr'ers of this citie the somme of five poundes a peece; and alsoe that the said Xp'ofor Conway and John Ratolyffe shall Betweene them paie, for and towards the repairinge of the Chymes of S't Peeters Church, the somme of xxs. which the last yeere the did not pay accordinge to an auncient [Order] heretofore made in that behalf.

The Thr'ers to pay oute of the Citty Stock yearly, to repaier the Chymes, v's. viij'd.

And for that the said Chymes haue of late bene farre oute of reperac'on, by reason the said yeerely rent of xxs. is to small to repaier them, It is therefore alsoe ordered by this said Assembly, that the leanelookers for this yeare shall paie to the Churchwardens of the said parish of S't. Peeters the somme of Twenty and five shillings towards the repairinge of the said Chymes; And alsoe that yearely from hencefourth the leanelookers of this citie for the tyme beinge shall paie the somme of five and Twenty Shillinges to the churchwardens aforesaid. And alsoe that the Thr'ers of this Citie shall yeerely from hencefourth paie oute of the Citty stock, to and for the vse aforesaid, to the said Churchwardens v's. viij'd., with which said seuerall sommes of xxvs. and vis viij'd to be paid yearely as aforesaid the parishioners of the said p'ish of S't Peeters shall yearely repaier and maintaigne and keepe in good reperac'on the said chymes, and alsoe paie the keeper therof his wages and stipend. And if the same shall fall oute to be litle, Then the said parishioners to supply the same of their own chardges.

Nos Leanelooker to infringe or breake any aunciente custome, vppon payne of forty poundes.

And for that the breach and infringement of the customes aforesaid, by the said Xp'ofor Conway and John Ratolyffe, hath geeven cause of Dislike to many citizens, And is an euell example for others, which notwithstanding, vppon ther submission for the tyme aforesaid, is Dispensed with all;

It is ordered by this said Assembly that whatsoever Leanelooker of this citty that shall hereafter infringe or breake any auncient custome or vsage aforesaid within this citty, withoute the consent or allowaunce of the maior, Aldermen, Sherifes, and

co'en counsell of this Citty first had and obtained at an Assembly to be holden in this citie, to forfeit forty poundes to this enorpora'ion to be paid withoute mitigation."

But it appears that, as early as 1585, the "said Chymes" had been taken into serious consideration by the Council; for in that year we find that one William Sampson, a clockmaker, was anxious to be a Freeman of the city, and for that purpose must have made a proposition to make a new CLOCK, with dial and ohimes; for in the Corporation Books we read,

"AT AN ASSEMBLY holden in the Com'en hall before Valentyn Broughton, Maio'r of the Cittie of Chester, the xxvijth day of January, Anne B'E'ne Elizabeth, &c., xxvij'o.

Wheras Will'm Sampsonne, Clockmaker, exhibiteth his bill to be free of this Citie, in Considera'ion to make A Clock, and orderly and substanciall Chymes, in the p'ishe Churche of St. Peter thappestle, within the saide Cittie, with a dyall streetwarde, there to decerne the houres and tymes of the day, vpon his owne charg's (hauing found to him All Carpenters wurke, Ropes, peao's, and C and di' Iron): w'oh beinge waied and considered, It is nowe fully agried vpon by the saide Maio'r, Thaldermen, Sheriffs, and Come' Counsell of the saide Cittie, That the saide Sampson, After that he shall haue fully made the saide Clock, Chymes, and dyall, in sorte as before, shalbe enfranchised and made free grata' in consider' thereof."

From the absence of Sampson's name from the List of Chester Freeman, it may be assumed that his undertaking fell through; thus justifying the resolve of the Corporation, not to make him free until his promise has been fulfilled.

Ledham.

B. M.

Notes.

[961] CHESTER CELEBRITIES.

The Welsh have a trite proverb — "If thou would'st have fame, *die*;" but many very famous men do die in provincial towns, and in a few short years their very names even are forgotten. When the rooms of The King's School were used the other day for an Exhibition of works of art, I fell across three pictures which at once arrested my attention,—a portrait of John Musgrove, by William Tasker; old houses in Foregate-street, by the same local artist; and a miniature of Tasker, by Thomas Bailey. The three men—Musgrove, Tasker, and Bailey—were friends and companions, schoolfellows unless I am mistaken, and all of them undoubted geniuses. JOHN MUSGROVE was clever beyond compare in drawing portraits of brick and stone: neither crack, blemish, nor deformity in the

subject of his still-life sittings escaped his keen observation, and hence his works are sought after for their truth and perfection. WILLIAM TASKER, on the other hand, possessed an eye to beauty; and whether you take up his drawings of men, animals, buildings, or landscapes, you can discover in them the one mark of excellence which placed him high up in the scale of artistic power. THOMAS BAILEY's soft touch endowed his handiwork with a living expression, which gave to his miniatures all the warmth which can make an abiding impression upon the observer; and in none of his productions do you find this more manifest than in the beautiful likeness of his friend, to which I have already alluded. These men were alike humble in birth, Bailey perhaps the least so, and they passed through life's fitful stage at Chester unappreciated by their neighbours—at least so little so as to make their comfortable subsistence both precarious and uncertain. They died, and their bodies were consigned to mother earth; but in this year of grace one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, not one Chester man in a thousand can render any account of them, or tell us aught about their works or deeds. This is not right; nor should we permit it to continue; and in the hope that some writer in THE SHEAF may give us a list of their works, I have ventured to call attention to their names in this short and imperfect manner.

ANTIQUARY.

[962]

MOW COP DIALECT.

HYLL, or HILL. To cover.

Since my last paper appeared in THE SHEAF I have been reading Canon Farrar's volume, "Eternal Hope," and at page 195 met with the following passage:—

"I . . . will here only repeat that "hell" has entirely changed its old harmless sense of "the dim underworld," . . .

and in a note on this passage the Canon says—

"*Helan*" is "to cover." Archbishop Usher says that in Ireland "to *hell* the head" is to cover the head; and a *hellier* is a slater. In *Hudibras* the word is used for the place where the tailor throws his "shreds," &c.

I send the foregoing as a kind of postscript to my last paper.

Mow Cop.

G. H.

[963]

BORDER COUNTIES WORTHIES.

Would you kindly allow me to state in THE SHEAF that Messrs. Woodall and Venables, of Oswestry, have been good enough to arrange for the re-publication of both series of "Border Counties Worthies," as they have appeared in the *Oswestry Advertiser*? The work will be issued early in 1880, and will contain something

over two thousand short notices of natives of Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Monmouthshire; and, although it is not altogether free from imperfections, I may say that neither trouble nor expense has been spared in verifying its contents. My chief object, however, in calling attention to this re-issue, is to express the hope that all of your readers who may take an interest in Border Counties Biography, will be good enough to communicate to me any new information they may possess, and any needful corrections that may come under their notice, with a view of enabling me, at some future time, to publish an improved edition of the work in a standard volume. I shall also be glad to receive short notices of other "worthies," who may have escaped my own observation; for it is desirable on every account that the lives and actions of our famous borderers should be preserved for posterity, and that even the more humble of them, who by speech or pen or who have in some other way, added honour to their county should be recorded upon the page of local history as benefactors to mankind.

Glanaber, Chester.

E. B. G. SALISBURY.

[We hope that some of the correspondents and readers of THE SHEAF will help MR. SALISBURY to do even greater honour than he has already done to the Worthies, past and present, of the Border Counties. Bis dat qui cito dat.—EDITOR.]

Queries.

[964]

MICHAEL DOUGHTY.

Can any of your readers give me information as to this gentleman, who, I find, was returned as Member of Parliament for the Flintshire Boroughs, 3rd October, 1686?

HENRY TAYLOR.

Curzon Park.

[965] CHESHIRE PRINTERS AND EDITORS.

There have been some notable men connected with the *Chester Courant*. In May, 1797, the death of Orion Adams was recorded, an outline of whose history was given in *Lancashire and Cheshire Local Gleanings* in November, 1876. In the *Salopian Journal* for August 23rd, 1800, the following appears amongst the deaths:—

"Lately, at an advanced age, Mr. Henry Sabine, printer, formerly conductor of the *Chester Courant*. Mr. Sabine was one of the compositors, in the year 1762, arrested by Government on the charge of printing Wilkes's memorable *Number forty-five*; on which occasion Mr. Sabine, and the other compositors, received £300 each for false imprisonment."

At what period was Mr. Sabine connected with the Cheshire press? Before or after his imprisonment?

Croeswylan, Oswestry.

A. B.

Replies.

[966]

ROBERT LLOYD, GENT.

[No. 842.—Oct. 1.]

The following sparse information, gathered from the Verney family papers, includes almost all that has come down to us relative to the LLOYD-VERNEY marriage. Of ROBERT LLOYD himself, beyond the fact of his marriage, and that he was left a widower with several children, I know nothing; equally with "L. L.," I should be very glad to ascertain his lineage, and the arms, if any, he was entitled to bear. I quote as follows from the family record:—

"Mary Verney, born at London, in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, April 14, 1628, between 2 and 3 in the morning. On Nov. 2, 1655, she was married at Paddington Church by Anthony Dod, the Minister, to Robert Lloyd, Esq., of Chester, who died Oct. 4, 1695. She had four children, viz.: Humphrey, born 1657, died 1715; Mary, born 1666; Verney, born 1670; and Bath, died 1725."

Verney Lloyd, the younger son, was a soldier, and was assisted in his promotion by his uncle, Sir Ralph Verney; he married and had children.

I reserve some curious details, likely to have special interest with your local readers, as to the above-named Mary Lloyd's death and burial-place, for a future communication.

HENRY EVE.

[967]

CHELFORD CHAPEL.

[No. 843.—Oct. 1.]

I expected to have seen in THE SHEAF an answer to this Query from some of our local Historians or Antiquaries; but as it has brought none thus far, I will give you what little knowledge I have of the Chapel's early history.

The present structure was consecrated 23rd July, 1776: it was built on the site of an older Chapel, pulled down to make room for the new building.

With regard to its early history, I will quote from a paper read some years ago at the meeting of "The Rosierucians":—

"ROBERT, a son probably of GILBERT PIGOT, living about 1267, who owned the Manor of Butley, held, according to the Chartulary of St. Werburgh's, the Manor of CHELFORD, under the Dispensers and Wavertons. This Robert, as appears by the Harl. MS. 1965, granted to Robert de Worth, for his homage and service, the vill of CHELFORD with the demeane of Asthull (Astle) and Wy(th)inton; to be held by him and his heirs by the yearly render of vije, and a pair of gloves, on the feast of All Saints, for all services, saving the pature of the sergeants of peace, and the repair of the Hays in Macclesfield Forest.

At the same time, he granted to the said Robert de Worth the Mill of CHELLEFORD and Wythington, and all the appurtenances, and suit to the same. The said Robert de Worth, in turn, granted to the Monks at Chester the entire vill of Chelleford, with the Mill of the same, *cum pert.*, and the demesnes and rents of Asthul and Wythington and the land called Longforde croft. He was to hold all these by the tenure of doing to the Lords of the fee the accustomed service, as contained in the Charter of his feoffee, Robert Pigot; and by finding one fit Chaplain to pray for ever in the Chapel of CHELLEFORD, for the souls of himself, his ancestors and successors. The said Chaplain was to celebrate Mass there on Sundays and two week days, at the pleasure of the Abbot: and on the remaining four days to do the same in the Parish Church of PRESTBURY, before the Altar of St. Nicholas.

Robert Pigot of Butley was succeeded by his son William, who, as shewn in the Harl. MSS., confirmed and quit-claimed to the Monks of Chester the vill of CHELLEFORD, saving to himself and his heirs the Lordship and homage of Wythington, on the rendering to himself and his heirs of a pair of white spurs and a barbed arrow yearly; and the further payment of three shillings yearly to the heirs of Hugh Despenser; and the payment of four shillings to the heirs of Hugh de Waverton.

In the Chester Chartulary it is added, that this William Pigot subsequently quit-claimed the homage, etc., of CHELLEFORD and Asthull (Astle) to the Monks; and from a copy of the Charter (Harl. MS. 2074, 186) it is ascertained to have been granted in the time of Reginald de Grey, Justice of Chester,—the date must therefore have been between the years 1270 and 1274.

In the Chartulary already referred to are two deeds without date, in one of which he quit-claims to the Abbey of St. Werburgh, the Church of PRESTBURY, with all rights which his ancestors ever had or were thought to have in the same."

CHELLEFORD Church was made parochial in 1674. The registers begin in 1679. The old Church was, I believe, a timber structure in black and white, of which there are so many examples still around this part of Cheshire.

In Mr. EARWAKER's second volume on *East Cheshire*, soon to come out, there will doubtless be more information than I can give.

Astle Hall.

GEORGE DIXON.

[968] . ANCIENT LIBRARY AT CHESTER.

[Nos. 869, 894.—Oct. 22, Nov. 5.]

Bishop FISHER's library, about which "LUCY D. T." enquired, had been bequeathed by him to St. John's College, Cambridge, when, as "T.C.H." says, the books were confiscated by Henry VIII.

"His noble library of books which the Bishop had collected with so much care, and at so great an expence,

inasmuch that Bailey tells us 'it was thought the like was not to be found in the possession of any one private man in Christendome, was carried away in large fats, of which there were no fewer than 32, and many of the books embezzled and spoiled.' . . . Of this library . . . his lordship had made and executed a deed of gift to the College of St. John's in Cambridge. But having inserted a clause in the deed, whereby he reserved them to himself during his life, they were adjudged to be within the compass of the act, as being in his possession, and to be all forfeited to the King." *Lewis' Life of Fisher*, vol. 2, pp. 144, 145.

If these books became part of the Royal Library, we may have some of them here. The old Royal Library, formed by the Kings of England from Henry VII.'s time, was presented to the British Museum by George II. But the books have been incorporated with the general library; and it would be difficult to find them all, and impossible to say to whom the books originally belonged. Most of them it is true are stamped on the back C. II. (Charles II.), Henry VII. and so on, but how they came into the possession of the Kings themselves cannot in most instances be said. We know that the collection contains the library of Archbp. CRANMER, but none of us know anything of Bishop Fisher's.

British Museum

[969]

CHENEY HALL.

[No. 929.—Dec. 8.]

There is no CHENEY HALL now in Nantwich, but the following extracts disclose its site:—

It appears from a Deed "of 24th and 25th March, 1788, made between Elizabeth and Margaret Walley, daughters and coheirs of Massey Walley, and devisees of William Walley of Nantwich, gentleman, their uncle, of the one part, and Samuel Barrow and others, charity trustees, of the other part; that the said Elizabeth and Margaret Walley granted, &c., unto the said Samuel Barrow and others—"

"All that Barn or Piece of Building used as such, formerly called CHENEY HALL, situate in or near to Barker-street, Nantwich, aforesaid, then in the holding of John Walker, and all that piece or parcel of land lying near or contiguous to the said Barns and situate in or near Barker Street and Mason's Lane, in Nantwich."

The following short extracts from the Nantwich Charity accounts refer to the same subject:—

"1788, Nov. 24.—Rec'd from Mr. Walker one year's rent of Cheney Hall, due Lady Day."

"1788.—Paid for Erecting two new Alms Houses in Love Lane, on the site of the old Barn late in the holding of John Tomlinson, and opposite to Cheney Hall Barn."

"On 24th Nov., 1797.—At a meeting of the Trustees (Charity), it was resolved that two new Alms Houses be erected on the site where CHENEY HALL Barn then stood, situate in Love Lane."

There are now, 1879, four brick Alms Houses in Love Lane, two opposite to each other; that is, two are separated from the other two by an occupation road or lane, called by old people Mason's Lane, leading out of Love Lane.

Nantwich.

W. W. D.

[970] STOCKPORT BEAUTIES.

[No. 937.—Dec. 10.]

"LUCY D. T." is, I fear, somewhat hard upon her sex, at least upon that portion of it resident at STOCKPORT. Beauty is, however, a mere matter of opinion, and the African's notion of it differs slightly from ours. Among my oceans of local scraps, I have just come upon the copy of an old street ballad which, albeit of a satirical turn, at least claims a certain kind of beauty for

"THE PRETTY GIRLS OF STOCKPORT.

You Stockport lads, and lasses too,
Attention pay my words unto;
I'll sing you now a verse or two
Of the pretty girls of Stockport.

Down Hillgate, as you pass along
No fair or wakes is half so throng,—
What charming faces are among
The pretty girls of Stockport!

Their rosy cheek and sparkling eye
Make the lads smile as they pass by;
No cunning fox is half so sly
As the pretty girls of Stockport.

Like fairy queens they trip along,
Small baskets on their arms are hung,
And laughing faces reign among
The pretty girls of Stockport.

Their dress, their aprons, neat and fine;
Their black-balled shoes with these combine:
Their skins like polished marble shine,
Those pretty girls at Stockport.

Around their necks so debonaire
Large rows of coral beads they wear,
And ear-rings, like some foreign fair,
Those pretty girls at Stockport.

On Saturday night—forgive the sin!—
To the "Jolly Hatters" they flock in,
To drink rum, brandy, ale, or gin,
Do the pretty girls of Stockport.

Whene'er the bell for market rings,
They buy them ribbons, combs, and rings;
But still they buy no prettier things,
Than the pretty girls of Stockport!"

So much for the song: the retrospect and morals though, would be all the more charming without the stanza about the "Jolly Hatters;" which latter goes largely to explain the lack of real, lasting prettiness among the toiling daughters of Stockport.

T. HUGHES.

[971]

BISHOP PEPLOR.

[Nos. 880, 895, 910, 938.—Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 19,
Dec. 10.]

The following extract, copied verbatim from our Parish Register at NORTHENDEN, may serve to give the information which your correspondent "S." desires:—

"The Revd. SAMUEL PEPLOR, L.L.D., Warden of Manchester, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, Archdeacon of Richmond, Prebendary of Chester, Rector of Northenden and Rector of Tattenhall, died at Chester the 22nd day of October, 1781, in the 82nd year of his age."

There is also, in a fine bold style of writing, similar to that of subsequent signatures attesting, as Rector, the several entries in the Register, the following record:—

"Mem. Post Vacationem per quinque Menses Successit in Reot: de North'den al's Northenden Samuel Peploe, LLB. in Academia Oxoniensi. Cnjus inductio solenni more consummata fuit decimo nono Decembris, Anno 1727, per Edward Potts de Ecclesia prædicta Curatum."

Northenden.

E. L. Y. DEACLE.

[972] COPPER MINES IN CHESHIRE.

[No. 939.—Dec. 10.]

In reply to "L. L." the Cheshire copper mines are at ALDERLEY EDGE. In the old workings, a few years ago, there were found a number of rude stone tools, which are described by antiquaries to date back to the Bronze Age.

Hoole.

F.

Some of these early stone implements are now in the Museum of the Chester Archaeological Society, and consist mainly of hammers, which had been fitted with handles of withy twigs bound round the stones,—such as are, we believe, still used by farriers in the construction of horse-shoes,—evidences of a very primitive race of miners.

These stones had been industriously chipped with a circular groove round each, the more efficiently to receive the withy handles.

The whole question of these ancient mining operations at Alderley, is one that should be more thoroughly studied than it has hitherto been by our Cheshire and Lancashire antiquaries and men of science.

We believe it will be shewn in our next Volume that at a later date, say about the middle of the seventeenth century, another and more central district of Cheshire was for some years surrendered to the tender mercies of the miner. If we mistake not, this venture was also for copper, like that of ALDER-

LEY; but whether it prospered or failed, and at what time it was relinquished by the proprietors, we must leave to our correspondents to settle in the columns of Volume II.

EDITOR.

[972*] MRS. JORDAN, THE ACTRESS.

[No. 319.—Oct. 23rd, 1879.]

While I am not able to confirm, I am certain not in a position to contradict the statement in Williams' *HISTORY OF DENBIGH*, that this great actress was a native of Llansannan, in the neighbouring county of Denbigh. Probably the present rector of the parish, if applied to, would kindly examine his Register, and, by permitting a copy of her baptismal Register, if found there, to appear in *THE SHEAF*, so set the interesting question at rest.

There is an incident in the life of this remarkable and in many ways estimable woman, which deserves to be permanently on record. She was "starring it" on the boards of the Chester Theatre, in September, 1789, and it is stated in our local chronologies that she netted, in four nights' performances, about £130. It was on this occasion, I believe, that the circumstances occurred which I here transcribe from the History of her *Life*, by Bowden:—

The late Mrs. Jordan possessed a heart susceptible of the most tender emotions, and these were called into action by the least approach of misery or distress. During her short stay at Chester, where she had been performing, her washerwoman, a widow with three small children, was, by a merciless creditor, thrown into prison: a small debt of about forty shillings had been worked up in a short time, by law expenses, into a bill of eight pounds. As soon as Mrs. Jordan heard of the circumstance, she sent for the attorney, paid him his demand, and observed, with as much severity as her good-natured countenance could assume, "you lawyers are certainly infernal spirits, allowed on earth to make poor mortals miserable." The attorney, however, pocketed the affront, and with a low bow silently made his exit.

On the afternoon of the same day that the poor woman was liberated, as Mrs. Jordan, with her servant, was taking her usual walk on the Chester walls, the widow, with her children, followed her; and just as she had taken shelter from a shower of rain in a kind of porch, dropped on her knees, and, with much grateful emotion, exclaimed, "God for ever bless you, madam! you have saved me and my poor children from ruin!" The children, beholding their mother's tears, added, by their cries, to the affecting scene, which a sensitive mind could not behold without strong feelings of sympathy. The natural liveliness of Mrs. Jordan's disposition was not easily damped by sorrowful scenes; however, although she strove to hide it, the tear of feeling

stole down her cheek, and stooping to kiss the children, she slipped a pound note into the mother's hand, and, in her usual playful manner, replied, "There, there, now it's all over, go, good woman, God bless you! don't say another word." The grateful creature would have replied, but this good female Samaritan insisted on her silence and departure.

Now it so happened that another person had taken shelter under the porch, and witnessed the whole of this interesting scene; who, as soon as Mrs. Jordan observed him, came forward, and holding out his hand, exclaimed, with a deep sigh, "Lady, pardon the freedom of a stranger; but would to the Lord the world were all like thee!" The figure of this man bespoke his calling: his countenance was pale, and a suit of sable, rather the worse for wear, covered his tall and spare person. The penetrating eye of Thalia's favourite votary soon developed his character and profession; and with her wonted good humour, retreating a few paces, she replied, "No, I won't shake hands with you!" "Why?" "Because you are a Methodist preacher, and when you know who I am, you'll send me to the devil!" "The Lord forbid! I am as you say, a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Who tells us to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and relieve the distressed; and do you think I can behold a sister so cheerfully obeying the commands of my Great Master without feeling that spiritual attachment which leads me to break through worldly customs, and offer you the hand of friendship and brotherly love?" "Well, well, you are a good old soul, I dare say; but—I—don't like fanatics: and you'll not like me, when I tell you who I am." "I hope I shall." "Well then, I tell you, I am a player." The preacher sighed. "Yes, I am a player, and you must have heard of me; Mrs. Jordan is my name." After a short pause, he again extended his hand, and with a complacent countenance replied, "The Lord bless thee! whoever thou art; His goodness is unlimited; He has bestowed on thee a large portion of His spirit; and as to thy calling, if thy soul upbraids thee not, the Lord forbid that I should."

Thus reconciled, and the rain having now abated, they left the porch together; the offer of his arm was excepted, and the female Roscius of comedy, and the serious disciple of John Wesley, proceeded arm in arm to the door of Mrs. Jordan's dwelling. At parting, the preacher shook hands with her, saying, "*Fare thee well, sister!* I know not what the principles of people of thy calling may be; thou art the first I ever conversed with, but if their benevolent practice equals thine, I hope and trust at the great day the Almighty God will say to each, '*Thy sins are forgiven thee!*'"

The same story is told in the "*CYCLOPEDIA OF WIT AND WISDOM*," and HEMINGWAY, the historian of Chester, slightly amplifies and corrects the anecdote in the following terms:—

"Of the correctness of the incident in its main features, I am enabled to speak with some degree of confidence. But the biographer has fallen into error in designating Mrs. Jordan's companion a Methodist Preacher. This individual was no other than the late Mr. COLIN ROBINSON, an old pensioner, who kept a flour warehouse at the bottom of Lower Bridge Street. He was a Methodist, but not a preacher; answering however in every other respect Mr. Boaden's description, and with some eccentricities was one of the kindest hearted men I ever knew. Mr. SAMUEL VENABLES, Head Master of the Blue Coat School, assures me that Mr. Robinson related to him the above occurrence, in which he had been a principal actor, and that the place where the parties

had taken shelter from the rain was in what is termed PEMBERTON'S PARLOUR, on the north side of the City Walls."

Speaking from memory, my own conversation with the late Mr. Venables on this topic, now thirty or more years ago, led me to the conclusion that Mr. Robinson answered the biographer's description more completely than *Hemingway* seems to have believed. Mrs. Jordan's casual acquaintance and admirer was not an authorised minister of the Wesleyan body, but he did occasionally act in the villages around Cheshire as a "Local Preacher."

G. T.

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CORRECTIONS.

On page 195, col., 2, *for* 1721 *read* 1797, as date of Pitt's Assessment Tax Bill. See line 18 from foot of column.

On page 316, col. 2, line 22, *for* Eaton Boat, *read* Backford.

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JW

MAR 5 - 1981



